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Amnesty welcomes Syrian move

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amnesty International said Monday it welcomes the recent release of Jafar Naway, Yaqub Musa, Hassan 'Ali, Hussam Salama and Thabit Murad — five human rights defenders who served their five-year prison sentences in Sednaya Prison, Syria. These men were arrested simply for defending human rights in Syria and should never have been imprisoned in the first place, Amnesty said in a press release. "We are now calling on the Syrian authorities to immediately release the five remaining prisoners of conscience who were arrested during the same period, it said. The five men were arrested with 12 others by the Syrian military intelligence between December 1991 and January 1992 in connection with the Committee for the Defence of Democratic Freedoms and Human Rights (CDF), a voluntary and unofficial organisation set up in 1989.

Volume 22 Number 6463

Qadhafi receives King's message

TRIPOLI (Petra) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi on Monday received Minister of Trade and Industry Ali 'Abul Ragheb, who relayed to him a message from His Majesty King Hussein. The message dealt with strengthening bilateral relations and issues of common concern. Colonel Qadhafi lauded the Kingdom's achievement in all fields. Libya is willing to cooperate with Jordan in all areas and form a joint Jordanian-Libyan committee for this regard, he said. Mr. 'Abul Ragheb voiced Jordan's opposition to the sanctions imposed on Libya. In Amman, Prime Minister 'Abul Karim Kabariti Monday received a cable from Secretary General Juma 'Fazzani on bilateral relations.

Demirel wants power to dissolve parliament

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish President Suleyman Demirel admitted in statements published Monday he would like the power to dissolve parliament and call early legislative elections. "The president of the republic should be elected by the people and the elected president should be empowered to dissolve parliament," Mr. Demirel said, according to the statements published in the Turkish press. Under Turkey's constitution, which was approved in a 1982 referendum, the president, elected by parliament, does not have the right to dissolve the legislative body. The Turkish leader said he had spoken with the pro-Islamic prime minister, Necmettin Erbakan, of the Turkish "unrest."

Egypt extends emergency law

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's parliament has approved a presidential decree to extend for three more years the emergency law in force since President Anwar Sadat was assassinated in 1981. In a session late on Sunday, the 444-seat house passed the law after 432 members voted for its extension while only 12 voted against it. The ruling National Democratic Party has a 317-seat majority in parliament. On Sunday, Prime Minister Kamal Ganzouri described the extension as protection for Egypt's expanding economy from sabotage by "terrorists," the government's term for militants fighting to turn Egypt into a purist Islamic state.

Israel has doubled troop numbers in S. Lebanon — U.N.

BEIRUT (AFP) — Israel has doubled the number of troops in its self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon over the past eight months, a U.N. spokesman said in an interview published Monday. "The figure is now closer to 2,000 Israeli soldiers," Timur Goksel, spokesman for the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), told the daily Star English-language newspaper. "That could also be a misleading figure as it could triple and even quadruple as we are talking now," Mr. Goksel said, but played down speculation of a military escalation in the area. Israel's military reinforcements appear to reflect an increasingly uneasy situation for Israeli forces in the border zone set up by the Jewish state in 1985.



An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تلغراف يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي

AMMAN TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1997, SHAWWAL 18, 1417

Jordan, Kuwait exchange greetings

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday sent a cable to Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah of Kuwait on his country's national day. The King wished Sheikh Jaber continued good health and a happy life and the Kuwaiti people further progress and development. Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Monday received a cable from Kuwaiti Prime Minister Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah congratulating him on the occasion of 'Eid Al Fitr. The cable came in reply to a cable sent by Mr. Kabariti to Sheikh Saad on this occasion.

Netanyahu suggests justice minister culprit in scandal

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Benjamin Netanyahu's lawyer suggested Monday that the prime minister had been manipulated by his justice minister in an alleged corruption scandal that prompted opposition demands the leader step down temporarily.

Mr. Netanyahu hired Yaacov Weinroth, one of Israel's top criminal lawyers, over the weekend after being reportedly warned by police during questioning last week that he could face criminal charges.

The alleged affair revolves around one of Mr. Netanyahu's political allies, Aryeh Deri, leader of the Shas Party. Israel TV has said Mr. Deri conspired to get a crony, lawyer Roni Bar-On, appointed as attorney general.

As part of the deal, Mr. Bar-On was to end Mr. Deri's corruption trial. Mr. Deri, in turn, was to deliver the two badly needed votes of Shas cabinet ministers in favour of the Hebron troop withdrawal.

Mr. Weinroth accused Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi of wrongly advising the premier over the appointment.

Mr. Netanyahu's aborted Jan. 10 nomination of Mr. Bar-On as attorney general has resulted in a police investigation, and the premier was grilled by police for four hours about the case last week.

If found to be implicated in a corrupt deal over Mr. Bar-On's appointment, Mr. Netanyahu could face charges of breach of trust, which carries a penalty of up to three years to jail on conviction.

It is the first time in Israel that a head of government has been threatened with indictment.

Mr. Weinroth told Israel Radio on Monday that



KING, CROWN PRINCE CONDOLE CHINA: His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, signs a condolences register at the embassy of the People's Republic of China on Monday during a visit there to convey condolences to the Chinese leadership and people over the death of China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping (see page 5)

King Hussein meets American Friends of Meretz delegation, reaffirms commitment to peace

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday received at the Royal Court a delegation representing the American Friends of Meretz, a lobbying group in Washington on behalf of the liberal Israeli political party Meretz.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said King Hussein reviewed with the delegation the Middle East peace process and the latest developments in the region.

The King briefed the American delegation on Jordan's commitment to efforts towards reaching a just, durable and comprehensive peace for the betterment of the people and the generations to come in the region.

King Hussein said proponents of peace were a majority in the Middle East and it was their duty to defend peace, Petra said.

Members of the delegation briefed the King on their group's activities and current tour of the region.

They expressed appreciation of King Hussein's efforts to reach peace and stability.

"Your Majesty's efforts are of high importance and are highly appreciated by peace-lovers in the Middle East," Petra quoted the leader of the delegation as saying.

The delegation is on a 10-day visit to the Middle East in a bid, according to its spokesmen, to explore how American Friends of Meretz could help advance the peace process and strengthen understanding between Israelis and Arabs.

"We would like to have firsthand information on how the Jordanian leadership and people perceive peace with Israel, and see what we could do to advance the quest for peace in the Middle East," said a delegation spokesman.

"We reject the Israeli policy of building settlements in the Palestinian territories," said the spokesman, adding that the group was also concerned over the possible reper-

Kuwait frees 10 Jordanian prisoners

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Kuwait on Monday announced the release of 10 Jordanian prisoners under an amnesty granted to 405 detainees as part of the emirate's celebrations marking its liberation from Iraqi occupation in 1991.

A Kuwaiti Interior Ministry statement, carried by international agencies in dispatches from Kuwait City, said the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, had also reduced the prison terms of 590 other prisoners. It was not known whether any Jordanians were among the 590.

A Jordanian official source welcomed the release of the 10 and expressed hope that all Jordanians held in Kuwait and other prisons would be released.

"We welcome the Kuwaiti gesture and hope that all other Jordanians, held in Kuwait and anywhere else, will be released so that they could be reunited with their families," said the source.

The source added that the government was closely following up on the situation of Jordanian prisoners abroad, including those in Kuwait.

The amnesty for the 10 Jordanian prisoners was the first since Kuwaiti authorities jailed nearly 100 Jordanians after they were tried by the state security court on charges of "collaborating" with Iraq during the August 1990-February 1991 Iraqi occupation of the emirate.

About half of them were freed after serving out their sentences since then.

Kuwait is observing liberation day on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The prisoners are to be released on Tuesday morning from the central prison in Sulaybiya, southwest of Kuwait City, the Interior Ministry statement said.

The statement said the

(Continued on page 7)

Palestinians will accept 'administrative unity' of Jerusalem, Abbas says

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Palestinians will have to get Arab East Jerusalem as the capital of the state they expect to set up but favour keeping the city united administratively, a top aide to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Monday.

Mahmoud Abbas, a key peace negotiator with Israel, said the United States still advocated a united Jerusalem.

"The American position is clear and has not changed ... no to the division of Jerusalem and no to the annexation of Jerusalem," Mr. Abbas told AFP in an interview during a visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"We support this stand. We do not want an administrative division of Jerusalem, and we do not want a wall to be erected between the two sectors. There could be a political division of the city."

Israel has ruled out handing over Arab East Jerusalem to the Palestinians, insisting it must remain part of the Jewish state's eternal capital.

Arab East Jerusalem will be one of the main issues in the final-status negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians which are due to begin on March 15 and end in May 1999.

Mr. Abbas said the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), headed by Mr. Arafat, would use peaceful means to get Arab East Jerusalem.

"We will seek help from the co-sponsors of the peace process — the United States and Russia, from Europe and from the U.N. Security Council, which has issued resolutions considering (Arab East) Jerusalem as occupied," he said.

"This city is unquestionably our legitimate right. It is an occupied city, and there will never be a final agreement without Jerusalem," he said.

Significant ground covered on bilateral issues during Netanyahu's visit here, Muasher reports

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Significant ground on economic cooperation was covered in Sunday's talks here between Jordan and Israel and officials from the two sides would start meetings soon to reach agreements on several issues, including trade and transport, Information Minister Marwan Muasher said Monday.

Dr. Muasher said the talks, held during the visit here of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, also included issues such as plans to modernise the King Hussein Bridge, efforts to secure the release of Jordanians held in Israel and Israel's treatment of Jordanians visiting the Jewish state as well as the Kingdom's quest to secure Jordanian properties in Israel.

He said the ministers of transport of the two countries will meet next week to discuss means to remove hurdles in the easy movement of goods between Jordan and the Palestinian territories after Israel agreed to consider a Jordanian request in this regard.

Dr. Muasher, addressing a weekly press briefing, said Israel had also accepted to consider expanding a list of products that the Kingdom could export to the West Bank.

Mr. Netanyahu told a press conference after his talks here on Sunday that he wanted to "break down all barriers and bring down all walls" in economic cooperation with Jordan.

He said progress was made on some issues and "other obstacles" in boosting bilateral ties would be removed soon.

In Sunday's talks, Dr. Muasher said, "we raised almost every issue of bilateral concern, including trade and transport, which are restrained by Israeli controls."

He was referring to cumbersome security inspections imposed by the Israeli army before Jordanian exports could enter the West Bank.

(Continued on page 7)

Turkish army chief warns government over Islamist trends

ANKARA (AFP) — A Turkish army chief issued a new strong warning to the government against departing from the secular tradition established 75 years ago, press reports said here.

Statements by the deputy chief of the armed forces general staff, General Cevik Bir, in Washington Saturday are expected to increase fears of a fourth military coup in Turkey since 1960.

The army, traditional defender of secularism in Turkey, staged a dramatic show of force earlier this month, sending some 40 tanks into Ankara's Sincan suburb after a strongly pro-Islamic demonstration was held there.

"We will make no concessions to anyone on the principles of Atatürk as regards democracy and secularism," Gen. Bir was quoted as saying Saturday, adding: "We expect the government to conform totally to these principles."

Mustapha Kemal Atatürk was the founder of modern Turkey in 1923.

Gen. Bir and a number of other Turkish officials were in the United States for annual meetings of an organisation to promote Turkish-American relations.

"We attach great importance to individual rights and freedoms," the general was also quoted as saying. "We will never allow our women to be deprived of these civil rights," he told an audience of some 1,000 Turks and Americans.

"The Turkish armed forces are the guardian of our constitution and a component of the people," who are "80 per cent pro-secular,"

He pointedly left out the 20 per cent who voted for the pro-Islamic Welfare Party (Refah) in December 1995 elections. Refah was able to form a government under Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan with the help of the rightist True Path Party of Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller.

Earlier this month the daily Sahah reported that Gen. Bir's senior, Chief of the General Staff General Ismail Hakkı Karadayi, would "stress the misgivings of the army in the face of anti-secular activity" at a meeting of the National Security Council on February 28.

The council brings together top civilian and military officials, including Mr. Erbakan and President Süleyman Demirel.

Supporters of Turkey's secular tradition have been expressing concern in recent weeks over a perceived trend towards "Islamisation" under Refah.

A bill to allow women to wear the Islamic headscarf in government offices and universities has already prompted a warning from the army. Refah has also proposed a mosque on Taksim Square in Istanbul, a spot that symbolises contemporary Turkey.

Sabah said the army was particularly annoyed over a visit that Justice Minister Sevtik Kacan paid in prison to Sincan's mayor, Bekir Yıldız, who was arrested following the demonstration.

Critics described the visit by Mr. Kacan, a Refah hard-liner, as a "defiance of justice" aimed at "giving the impression that the Islamist mayor was under the protection of the Justice Ministry."

Deniz Baykal, the head of the opposition People's Republican Party (CHP) founded by Atatürk, has charged that Refah's "dream" was to "set up a regime on the model of Iran."

Tehran's ambassador to Turkey, Mohammad Reza Bagheri, was among the speakers at the Sincan demonstration, where he backed the introduction of Islamic law, sparking an outcry.

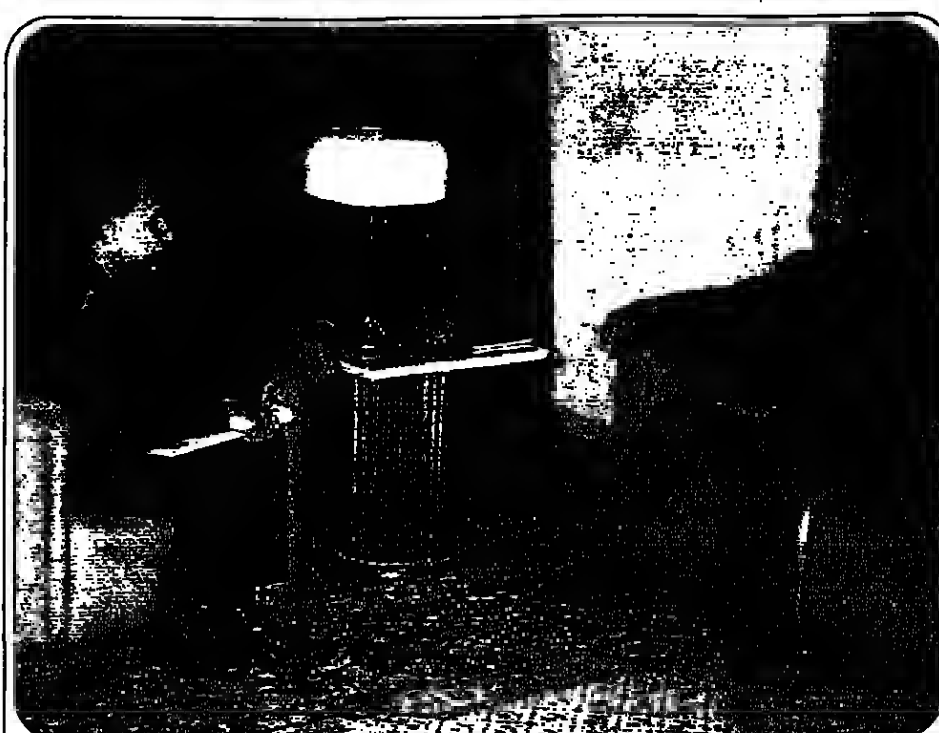
In a speech during "Jerusalem night," organised by Mr. Yıldız on January 31, Mr. Bagheri also said Islam would triumph throughout the world.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry sent a protest note to Mr. Bagheri, but Turkish lay circles, including the army, considered the measure inadequate.

Mr. Demirel also jumped to the defence of the secular state this month, hitting out at "those who are trying to politicise the Islamic religion and use it for political ends." Thousands of women in Ankara protested last month against Sharia in a march that was condemned by Refah as a "reaction against religion."

Mr. Bagheri and Iran's consul in Istanbul Mohammad Reza Rashid have returned to Tehran for consultations "after the recent events in Turkey," Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Saturday.

A political analyst said the Turkish government had not ordered the expulsion of the two diplomats, but had instead asked the Iranian government to recall them in order to avoid damaging ties between Ankara and Tehran.



SADDAM VISITS INDUSTRY COMMISSION: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein meets with the head of the Military Industry Commission, Dhaif Ahmad Majeed Ahmad, on Monday. The two men discussed plans to build a base of civil industries in Iraq (Reuters photo)

Lebanese Shiite leader calls for truce between Islamists and Arab regimes

CAIRO (Agencies) — A Lebanese Shiite Muslim leader called Monday for a truce between Islamist groups and Arab governments, after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"We can oppose a government and have differences with it, but that must be limited to dialogue. If we disagree with someone, it's not necessary to resort to arms," Sheikh Mohammed Mahdi Shamseddin, president of the Superior Shiite Council in Lebanon, told journalists in Cairo.

The council is the highest Shiite authority in Lebanon.

When asked about militant groups in Arab countries, the sheikh called for a "truce in the Arab and Muslim World between government and political groups."

Such militant groups "are illegitimate from the viewpoint of Muslim doctrine," he said. Egypt, which is predominantly Sunni Muslim, and Algeria are the two main Arab countries with militant violence.

Nearly 1,150 people have been killed in Egypt since militants launched an anti-government campaign in March 1992, and in Algeria, there have been tens of thousands of casualties of militant violence.

The sheikh said he and Mr. Mubarak also discussed "matters related to the Israeli-Arab conflict and how to strengthen solidarity and resistance in the Arab World."

Sheikh Shamseddin's visit, the first to Egypt, was in response to an invitation by Egyptian religious Affairs Minister Mahmoud Zaazou, who has denounced the "minority which has begun spreading Shiite thought in Egypt."

The Lebanese religious leader called in November for the Egyptian authorities to stop what he called the "slander" against Shiites in Egypt.

In October, 56 Egyptian Shiites suspected of membership of an underground group linked to Iran were arrested and accused of planning "to spread Shiite thinking in order to divide the Muslim Nation."

Sheikh Shamseddin's visit came a day after Egyptian police freed a preacher, Sheikh Hassan Shahata, who had been accused of propagating Shiite theology and encouraging Egyptians to convert.

Ninety per cent of Egypt's 60 million people are Muslims and the rest are Christians. Shiites are a majority in Iran and Iraq but are minorities in most Arab countries, including Egypt.

The Shiite faith is not banned in Egypt, but trying to convert Sunni Muslims to other faiths is outlawed.

It was unclear whether the Lebanese cleric's visit prompted Sheikh Shahata's release. Following his meeting with Mr. Mubarak, Sheikh Shamseddin made no mention of Sheikh Shahata.

Islamic Action Front condemns massacre at Egyptian church

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) party on Monday condemned a recent attack on a Coptic church in Upper Egypt in which nine Christian students were killed.

The IAF also praised the head of the Coptic church for his stand with regard to the Palestinian question and Jerusalem.

"The IAF highly appreciates your honourable role vis-a-vis the Palestinian problem and your strong opposition to Israel's attempts to Judaize the Holy City of Jerusalem and penetrate the Arab World politically, culturally and economically," said the IAF in a message addressed to Pope Shenouda, head of the Coptic Church.

"While commending your efforts and your honourable role, we would like to express our regret over the fall of innocent people killed in an attack on Feb. 12 near a church in

Ahu Qurqas town. We condemn all attacks on innocent people and their property and rights," the message said.

Several men with automatic weapons fired on a group of Coptic students taking a religious lesson in Ahu Qurqas, killing nine of them and wounding another five, according to reports.

The attack by suspected militants sparked condemnation from groups across the political spectrum in Egypt.

The IAF message to Pope Shenouda said:

"We would like to reaffirm to you that this is a condemned act and we cannot rule out the possibility that foreign agents were behind the attack to cause divisions and splits in Egypt."

"Such criminal actions are alien to our religion which respects the faith and rights of all people," it added.

Iran says two Bahais were spies for Israel

TEHRAN (R) — Iran has denied that its courts sentenced two men to death because they followed the baha'i faith, describing Washington's version of the case as "utterly fabricated and spiteful."

The official news agency IRNA quoted the head of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary courts, Gholam Hoseny Rahbarpour, as saying the two men were convicted of spying for Israel.

"No one in Iran will be prosecuted or punished for having a specific ideology or view," Mr. Rahbarpour said in the IRNA report late on Sunday.

The U.S. State Department last month condemned a decision by Iran's supreme court to uphold death sentences on two members of the Baha'i faith and urged Tehran to release them.

Mr. Rahbarpour said: "The two that were sentenced to death were Musa Talebi and Zabihollah Mahrami. They were involved in espionage activities in the interests of Zionist aggressors. They were arrested while spying and were sentenced to death."

He said Iran's supreme court upheld the verdict, but Talebi was later pardoned. He gave no further details and it was not clear whether Mahrami had been executed.

Bahais in the United States say more than 200 members of their faith have been executed in Iran for their religious beliefs since the Islamic revolution of 1979.

The Baha'i faith, an off-

shoot of Islam, originated in Iran 150 years ago. It claims six million members worldwide, including 3,500 in Iran where it is officially considered "a misleading and wayward sect."

The State Department said the supreme court upheld death sentences passed on Talebi and Mahrami, who were convicted separately, last year of "apostasy", a term used in Iran to denote abandoning Islam.

The United States had already appealed on behalf of the men when their original sentences were passed.

Iran vows Hajj rally

Iran meanwhile vowed that its pilgrims would defy a Saudi ban and hold a rally to denounce the U.S. and Israel at the Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia in April.

State-run Tehran radio quoted Iran's Hajj supervisor Mohammad Reza Shahri as saying: "The disavowal of infidels is the high point of the social goals of Hajj...We should try with all our power to perform the true Hajj as revealed to us by the late imam (Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini)."

He was referring to a rally which Iran says should be held as part of the annual pilgrimage to denounce the enemies of Islam.

Saudi Arabia has issued a strong warning against political rallies at the pilgrimage.

Saudi security forces clashed in 1987 with demonstrators in an Iranian-led rally in the streets of Mecca, killing about 400 people, mainly Iranians.

Cyprus looks for more ancient treasures from the grandeur of its past

POLITIKO, CYPRUS (R) — Nestled on a sunny pine-grown slope in the foothills of snow-capped mountains, Politiko bears little evidence of the grandeur of centuries past in Cyprus.

But first impressions can be misleading.

"Wherever we dig we will find antiquities," quipped a resident of the village of 500 inhabitants lying just southwest of Cyprus capital Nicosia.

"It is very common. The whole village is built on ruins."

Politiko's claim to fame is that it was once called Tamassos, one of Cyprus's 11 city kingdoms famous for its copper smelting workshops.

With a history dating back to at least 1200 B.C., Tamassos flourished on the riches that copper brought to the

island, selling it to the outside world with Idalion, another kingdom in central Cyprus and using Kition, the modern-day south coastal town of Larnaca, to ship it to neighbouring countries.

Tamassos' richness in copper was mentioned by the Greek epic poet Homer in his famous Odyssey. Then it was known as Termeze.

Today two ancient royal tombs dating from 6 B.C., the abandoned altar of a sanctuary to Aphrodite and non-descript rock formations are all that remains, uncovered by relentless excavations that foreign teams started last century.

A third tomb was excavated so badly that it was destroyed.

New discoveries at the site by accident in January have spurred local archaeologists to take a closer look at Tamassos and its history.

The discovery of six statues — four lions and two sphinxes — prompted debate that more archaeological treasures are waiting to be uncovered after centuries in the white chalky earth. New excavations start.

"We went there just to repair the walls and the roofs of the tombs and we found the statues accidentally," said Demos Christou, director of the Cyprus department of antiquities.

All six statues, made of Cypriot limestone and in immaculate condition, were found together one metre below the surface adjacent to the wall of one of the royal tombs at Tamassos.

Earlier this week labourers were busy building a concrete ridge next to the snow-covered timber entrance of one of

the tombs. Rainwater had seeped into the tomb, a square chamber with an arched roof made of yellow limestone slabs, through a damaged wall.

The second royal tomb, about 30 metres away, is more elaborate with stone carvings at its entrance and a longer corridor before the burial chamber. The rectangular coffin made of stone is easily visible through artificial lighting above its tiny entrance.

In archaeological terms, royal tombs do not necessarily mean they were the burial places for kings, Mr. Christou said.

"They probably belonged to some local administrator or a very important person," he said, referring to another site dotted with royal tombs in Paphos, capital of Cyprus in antiquity on the island's west-

ern coast.

"Kings ceased to exist in Cyprus at the end of the 4th century B.C. so the tombs could not have belonged to royalty," said Mr. Christou. "Probably the same thing happened in tamassos because in the 6th century Cyprus was under Egyptian influence."

The statues, not unusual in design but in unusually good condition, are believed to date from 6 B.C.

The presence of the sphinxes allows archaeologists to narrow their creation down to years, not centuries. Similar to sphinxes in many Egyptian museums, Cyprus was under the domination of its neighbouring country between 545-565 B.C.

Cyprus later came under the Hellenistic state of the ptolemies of Egypt from 325-58 B.C.

"Usually these statues decorate tombs," Mr. Christou explained. "Lions and sphinxes are the tomb guards so we do not exclude the possibility of discovering another tomb, or something else in the area. We should know soon."

Similar discoveries have been found at Tamassos in the past, but never in such good condition or grouped together. "There were tourists here when the statues were found and their eyes nearly popped out of their heads when they saw what we had found," a guard on the site chuckled.

"We haven't seen anything like this for years," he added. After a period of study and restoration the statues will be placed in the Cyprus museum, where exhibits of Cyprus's rich cultural heritage are displayed.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:08 Cartoon — Budgie-The Little Helicopter
14:30Flintstones
15:00French Programmes
16:00Super Sports Houses
16:30Dog House
17:00News Flash
17:02Fun With Physics
17:20Varieties
18:00French Programmes
19:30News Headlines
19:35 Comedy — Murphy Brown
20:00Superstars of Action
20:30Encounter
21:10Lost Civilisations
20:00News in English
22:25Snowy River
23:00Mission Impossible

PRAYER TIMES

04:12Fajr
05:30(Sunrise) Duha
11:42Dhuhr
15:11Asr
17:54Maghreb
19:11Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swefieh. Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church
Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel.

661757.
Terra Sancta Church Tel.
622506
Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church
Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel.
771751.
Armenian International Church
Tel. 625236
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel.
675691.
The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Cold and cloudy to partly cloudy weather conditions will prevail with a chance of scattered rainfall and winds westerly active. On Wednesday, there will be a gradual rise in temperatures but remaining slightly below average. It will be sunny to partly-

cloudy and winds northwesterly-moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman04/11
Aqaba10/20
Deserts03/13
Jordan Valley09/19

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 10, Aqaba 19 Humidity readings: Amman 90 per cent. Aqaba 49 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Faysal Al Dabbas759155
Dr. Adnan Zaghloul898140
Dr. Mazen Al Nhai830435
Dr. Fakher Bilal552233
Ferdous pharmacy778336
Al Asena pharmacy637055
Al Salam pharmacy636730
Yacoub pharmacy644945
Shmeisani pharmacy637660
Nairoukh pharmacy623672
Najib pharmacy847632
IRBID:
Dr. Mazen Abu Baker 276852
Al Quds pharmacy(—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Mazen Al Safarini 985832
Khalifeh pharmacy985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre637111
Civil Defence Dept661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue630341
Civil Defence Emergency199
Rescue Police 192621111
657777
Fire Brigade617101
Blood Bank775121
Highway Police843402
Traffic Police896390
Public Security Department630321
Hotel Complaints605800
Price Complaints661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints897467
Amman Municipality Complaints787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)121
Overseas Calls010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs661101
Jordan Television773111
Radio Jordan774111
Water Authority680100
Jordan Electricity Authority815615
Electric Power Company636381
RJ Flight Information0853200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-

53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre
813813/32
Khalidi Maternity644281/6
Aldieh Maternity643441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity642362
Malhas, J. Amman636140
Palestine, Shmeisani607071
Shmeisani Hospital669131
University Hospital845845
Al-Munasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir775111/26
Army, Marka891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital
602240/50
Amal Hospital674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323
Zarqa National Hospital(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital(09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital(09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital(02)272275

Ibn Al Nafees Hospital

(02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:15Sanaa (RJ)
07:25Damascus (RJ)
09:25Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:30Aqaba (add) (RJ)
10:05Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:05Beirut (RJ)
10:15Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
15:55London (RJ)
16:20Cairo (RJ)
16:35Frankfurt (RJ)
17:15 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights

05:05London (RJ)
13:30Kiev (6U)
14:05Munich (YP)
16:30Rome (AZ)
18:15Dubai, Damascus (EK)
20:10Beirut (ME)
20:30Cairo (MS)
21:40Tel Aviv (LY)
23:40Amsterdam (KL)
23:59Aden (IY)
00:55Bucharest (RO)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights
17:45Tel Aviv (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:20Beirut (RJ)

08:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

11:05 Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)

11:15Vienna, Brussels (RJ)

12:00Geneva, Madrid (RJ)

12:10Paris (RJ)

12:15London (RJ)

12:15Cairo (RJ)

12:30Frankfurt (RJ)

20:20Larnaca (RJ)

20:30Jeddah (RJ)

20:40Damascus (RJ)

21:00Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

22:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights

07:30London (RJ)

07:35London (BA)

14:30Kiev (6U)

15:45Munich (YP)

17:40Rome (AZ)

19:15Dubai (EK)

21:30Cairo (MS)

22:50Tel Aviv (LY)

00:40 Damascus, Amsterdam (KL)

01:00Aden (IY)

01:55Bucharest (RO)

07:45Beirut (ME)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

07:00Aqaba (RW)

17:15Tel Aviv (RW)

20:30Aqaba (RW)

HJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every

Monday

Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every

Monday

Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m.

every Sunday

Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every

Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upperflower price in fils per kg.

Apple700/500
Banana600/600
Banana (imported)980/600
Cabbage100/40
Carrot210/120
Cauliflower290/150
Cucumber (large)180/100
Cucumber (small)260/120
Eggplant230/120
Fava beans800/700
Garlic1150/600
Grape fruit190/100
Lemon400/200
Marrow (large)300/120
Marrow (small)450/60
Onion (green)210/120
Onion (dry)210/120
Orange650/300
Peas850/300
Pepper (hot)250/100
Pepper (sweet)450/200

Home News

King visits army headquarters Crown Prince, prime minister meet with U.S. military delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Prince Abdullah, Special Operations commander, Monday called on army headquarters, where they were received by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdel Hafiz Marei Kaabneh and other senior military officers.

King Hussein met with Field Marshal Kaabneh, and the two discussed issues of concern to the armed forces.

The King also was briefed on the duties of the Badia and Border Police.

Earlier Monday, Crown Prince Hassan met a U.S. military delegation at the Armed Forces Headquarters.

The meeting was attended by Field Marshal Abdel Hafiz Marei Kaabneh and other senior officers.

The two sides discussed U.S.-Jordan relations and the Middle East peace process.

Also Monday, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Abdul Karim Kabariti received the U.S. delegation at his office to discuss the peace process and the Jordanian role therein.

Attending the meeting were Minister of State Mohammad Odeh Njadat and U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Wesley Egan.

Japan to donate \$88,000 to construct institute for the disabled in Salt

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government of Japan will donate \$88,000 to the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf for the construction of a Salt Training and Resource Institute for the Disabled, an Embassy of Japan statement said Monday.

A grant contract to this effect was signed between Br. Andrew L. De Carpentier C.D.C., Director of the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf and Ambassador to Japan Takayuki Kimura in Amman on Feb. 24.

The Holy Land Institute for the Deaf (HLID) has been contributing to the education and vocational training for the disabled, especially for hearing-impaired children since its establishment in 1964, the statement said.

HLID plans to establish a new institute in order to develop and expand its activities, teachers and work capacities.

The Japanese donation will be used for the renovation of the historical Evangelical Hospital, located in the middle of Salt, which will be used as a central facility of the institute.

The hospital was constructed, utilising the traditional yellow bricks of Salt, hardly found in present-day Jordan.

The Japanese assistance is expected to contribute not only to providing facilities to the institute, but also to conserving the historic architecture of Jordan.

This grant is provided within the framework of the Japanese Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Projects (GAGP), the statement said.

GAGP has been extended mainly to non-governmental organisations (NGOs), research institutes, hospitals and local governments, with emphasis in such areas as primary health care, poverty relief, basic job training, women in development, environment, primary education and assistance for the disabled.

Through GAGP, Japan has so far donated \$1,644,998 to Jordan since 1993.

GAGP grants to Jordan for the 1996 fiscal year, ending in March 1997 is expected to reach \$700,000, the statement said.

Exhibition of children's artwork opened

By Nadia Mukhlis
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Polish embassy and the Goethe Institute yesterday jointly opened an exhibition linked to "The Second Art Competition for Children", displaying more than 100 children's pictures.

The stated purpose of the contest is to enable children to demonstrate their abilities and create an artistic atmosphere, while emphasising the importance of art in our lives, a Goethe Institute official said.

The contest covered two main subjects, the first being "my dream world," and the second, "the country of my parents."

The age of the children participating ranged between 4-18 years.

Severo people judged the children's work of whom two were Jordanian artists — Chairman Fouad Mimi and Ibrahim Shalaby, who represented the Ministry of Culture.

The other judges were Wafa'a Qsous, Director of the Goethe Institute Dieter Glade, Delegate of the Jordanian-Polish Friendship Association Mohammed Baderkhan, member of the Polish Women's Club Elzbieta Artun and spouse of the Polish Chargé d'Affaires Krystyna Rekas.

The judges chose 22 works as the contest winners.

All contestants received prizes for participation and special diplomas were awarded to the winners of the first, second and third places in the four age categories.

The exhibition opened yesterday and will continue until the third of March.

Françoise LeGolván to perform at RCC tonight

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Tonight, the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) promises to host a particularly entertaining evening for all those who love original, genuine French songs.

The Centre Culturel et de Coopération Linguistique (CCCL) in Amman and the Association des Diplômes de France (association of the students who graduated from France) have invited Françoise LeGolván to perform in Jordan.

Ms. LeGolván gave a taste of things to come to a small group of spectators who went to see her sing and act at the CCCL last Sunday. Using what can be described as a very original show-lecture-conference formula, she fascinated her audience with her presence, her wit and her very real talent.

She traced the roots of the popular French café-concert back to the middle of the nineteenth century. Starting with Teresa, followed by Yvette Guilbert, Marie Dubas, Mistinguett, Arletty and finally by the celebrated Edith Piaf, she illustrated the fine lineage of the stars of the genre with exquisite songs and short sketches.

Ms. LeGolván is obviously as good an actor as she is a singer. Moving seamlessly, effortlessly from narrative performance to dynamic show, most professional show. The most difficult thing when one watches Ms. LeGolván is to think of something else — impossible, she captivates her audience.

Her career started two years ago when she moved from her native Bretagne to Paris. She has since won not only the prestigious Jacques Brel Award, but even more importantly, the sincere respect of her colleagues in show business.

The concert that is to take place on Tuesday at the RCC will see her interpreting songs spanning more than a century of French "hits" including some titles that have become world standards, such as "La Vie En Rose" of Edith Piaf.

Ms. LeGolván continues a tradition of art which relies on live acting and singing skills, from times when recording, microphones and amplifications were totally unknown.

Masri testifies in case of journalists accused of lese majeste

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Former Prime Minister and Deputy Taher Masri, testifying in the case of two journalists accused of lese majeste, Monday told the State Security Court that an article written by Nahed Hattar did not include any material slandering His Majesty King Hussein.

"The article that Mr. Hattar wrote concerned myself and I did not find anything therein written about King Hussein," Mr. Masri, one of five witnesses subpoenaed by the defence team, said.

Mr. Masri, 55, was referring to an article which Mr. Hattar wrote regarding him, published in a weekly tabloid on Oct. 3, 1995.

The article is one of many news items, written and published by Mr. Hattar, which the prosecution is charging slandered the King.

Mr. Hattar, 37, is accused of distributing articles which slandered both the King and HRH Crown Prince Hassan, while Abdullah Abu Ruman, 23, is accused of verbal slander.

Former Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzidin took the witness stand and said that the role of the Ministry of Information is "to organise and not to supervise the press."

He added that the Press and Publications Department is responsible for

organising the press and issuing licences in accordance with the law.

When asked by Defence Attorney Faisal Bataineh as to whether Mr. Izzidin had read Mr. Hattar's articles and, if he had, the conclusion he drew from them, the former minister answered in the affirmative.

"I did read most of Mr. Hattar's articles and there is an obvious criticism of the government and some institutions. The writer also offers solutions for these stated problems in his article," Mr. Izzidin said.

Also testifying for the defence was Deputy Toujan Faisal who is also a columnist for the weeklies Shihab, Al Bilad, and Al Hayat.

She testified to reading most of the published articles in question.

In response to a question posed by Mr. Bataineh concerning the newspapers' editors' stand on articles considered slanderous to the King, Ms. Faisal affirmed that the editors would prevent such articles from being published.

"If these editors felt that an article could be considered or interpreted as slanderous to the King it would not be published," she said.

Chief Editor of Al Hadath Weekly Nidal Mansour attested that his newspaper always abided by the Press and Publications Law.

"I read all articles before the paper is published, and

if I saw anything that could violate the law I would take necessary action," he told the court.

When asked by the military prosecution as to whether he read Mr. Hattar's column "Who is the Jordanian?" previous to its publication in the newspaper, he confirmed reading it before it was published.

Also during the court session, the military prosecutor questioned both defendants in regards to written testimonies which they presented to the court last week.

Both defendants restated during Monday's court session that they did not slander the King either in their published or draft articles.

The two men had pleaded not guilty to charges last week.

They could also face trial at a civil court on charges of propagating material which harms national unity and relations between Jordan and Palestine, sows sectarianism and ethnicism, instigates violence, terror and hatred, and undermines national unity.

The defence team asked the court for time to subpoena five additional witnesses to testify in the case.

The court tribunal, headed by Justices Yusef Faouri, Na'el Massadeh and Ahmad Ayash agreed and postponed the case until March 3.

Kabariti meets with Sudanese minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Monday told visiting Sudanese Minister of Agriculture Nafic Ali that Jordan supports mediation efforts by United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan to end the conflict between the Khartoum government and the rebels in southern Sudan.

Mr. Kabariti said the Kingdom was ready to provide support for Sheikh Zayed's efforts and also help the Sudanese people halt foreign intervention in their internal affairs.

He said that Jordan stands firm by Sudan in the face of foreign intervention and aggression aimed to partition that country.

At a meeting, attended by Minister of Agriculture Mustafa Sheikhat, Mr. Kabariti was briefed by the Sudanese minister on the general situation in his country. Mr. Ali stressed that Khartoum was capable of confronting external dangers directed against its unity and territorial integrity.

Later, Mr. Ali spoke to Jordan Television and maintained that his country appreciated Jordan's stand.

Describing the current situation in Sudan as stable, Mr. Ali affirmed that the Khartoum government has mobilised its military and political powers to deal with any external aggression on its territory.

JSTTA files lawsuit against new regulations

By Tanyu Habbjoupa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Society of Tourism and Travel Agents (JSTTA) has filed a lawsuit demanding the annulment of new regulations, issued by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, for tourist agency licence renewals.

According to Article 8 of Travel and Tourism Laws, tour agencies which fail to renew their licences between Jan. 1-31 must pay a fine totalling 50% of the licence value. If the agencies in question still have not paid in February, the ministry retains the right to prohibit that agency from practising, to withdraw its licence and close office as of March 31, President of the JSTTA Lam' Haddadin told the Jordan Times.

"Over 200 travel agents are facing hardships with these new regulations, they may be forced to shut down," he said.

Last May, the JSTTA sued the ministry regarding these new stipulations which, it says, require heavy application and licence renewal fees as well as a starting capital of JD50,000.

The case resulted in the JSTTA's favour.

"That first court case gave us our rights, that the new regulations only apply to newly established agencies, but the ministry is refusing to see it this way," Mr. Haddadin asserted.

According to Mr. Haddadin, a request that the ministry send its decision to the Office for Interpretation of Legislation and Laws for review was turned down.

The extra expenses incurred by travel agents will result in a price increase for the international tourist market, thereby diminishing Jordan's competitive

edge, he added.

"We are definitely affected by these stipulations and we do not agree [with them], every year we have this problem," Manager of Tyche Tours Hassan Atari said.

The Ministry of Tourism issued these laws without studying the tourism market nor analysing the results, Mr. Haddadin affirmed.

"Such legislation will drive agencies out of the market, its benefits are limited to only around 50 companies," he added.

"Such increases, naturally affect our business and are uncalled for," Avia Tours Commercial Manager Hanna Petro said Sunday.

The current bank guarantee of the JD25,000 travel agents must pay is another issue the JSTTA is handling, insisting that there is no need for a bank guarantee as tourism agents already provide their own guarantees.

According to Mr. Haddadin, any travel agent who hays airline tickets must proffer a bank guarantee to that airline.

"The ministry cannot withdraw the bank guarantee without a court authority, the current laws will result in a JD5 million reserve in the banks that benefits neither the government nor tourism," he stated.

If some travel agents are causing problems, there should be enacted strict regulations, not simply bank guarantees, the JSTTA maintained.

"If the Ministry of Tourism will not come to an agreement and 150 offices close, we will strike if forced," concluded Mr. Haddadin.

Attempts to obtain a comment on the issue from the Ministry of Tourism met with no response.

Rainfall replenishes Kingdom's dams

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Monday reported that the rainfall of the past five days has replenished the Kingdom's dams, which now contain a combined total of 80.5 million cubic metres (MCM) of water out of an overall capacity of 105.8 MCM.

King Talal Dam, the nation's largest, which retains a capacity of 75 MCM is now possessed of approximately 62 MCM of water, the Wadi Shueib Dam which has a total capacity of 1.43 MCM is full, the Wadi Arah Dam currently holds 13 MCM of water out of a capacity of 17 million, the Sharhabil Dam is holding 2.4 million MCM of water out of a total capacity of 3.9 million, however the Kafrein Dam which has a capacity of 8.4 million possesses a mere 1.7 MCM of water at present, the JVA confirmed.

The Department of Meteorology Monday forecast scattered showers for Tuesday with temperatures reaching a maximum of 11 degrees Celsius during the day and dropping to four at night.

A department official warned of poor visibility in the early morning due to fog.

CDD team retrieves bodies of two children

AMMAN (Petra) — A Civil Defence Department (CDD) team in Amman Monday retrieved the bodies of two children reportedly killed in a Sunday near Jweideh some 20 kilometres south of Amman, a CDD official said.

Faten Abdul Munem, 12, and her brother Kamal, 4, were reported missing

Sunday.

Meanwhile, CDD teams continued their search for a 10-year-old girl who was believed to have accidentally fallen into a man hole and was swept away in Sunday's torrential rains.

The search for Maha Fawzi Khader 'was being' conducted over a 10-kilometre stretch of under- and above-ground waterways

from the Seventh Circle to the Wadi Abdoun district.

If she is not found, the official said, the CDD fears that she might have been carried away towards the Zarqa River.

The child was on her way to school near the Seventh Circle when she fell and was swept away by a torrent of water, reports said.

JTA cements 1997 schedule of events

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Trade Association (JTA) Monday affirmed that it has cemented plans for this year's activities, which include organising or participating in various international trade exhibitions with the intention of opening new markets for Jordanian products.

JTA Director General Halim Abu Rahmeb maintained that, in the second half of 1997, the association will organise Jordanian industrial exhibitions in Yemen, Sudan and Lithuania and will also take part in exhibitions in Lebanon, South Africa and Nairobi.

During 1997, he added,

the JTA will organise visits by Jordanian entrepreneurs to the Palestinian self-rule areas and Iraq with the aim of removing barriers obstructing exports of Jordanian products to the two countries, Mr. Abu Rahmeb said.

He added that the Iraqi market, Jordan's largest, has a great demand for Jordanian industrial products.

Mr. Abu Rahmeb maintained that the JTA is maintaining consultations with the Jordan Exports and Development Commercial Corporation (JEDCO) as well as the Amman Chambers of Industry and Trade for par-

ticipation in other exhibits.

To further highlight and promote sales of Jordanian products, this year the JTA is holding a series of seminars and meetings with government officials and decision-makers in the private and public sectors to discuss economic developments and will enter such information into the Internet later this year.

The JTA groups 100 members representing industrial and service firms and has been providing information to Jordanian exporters regarding European and American markets.

WACA holds first meeting in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The newly-elected executive committee of the World Airlines Clubs Association (WACA), grouping 86 interline clubs worldwide, held its first meeting here early this week.

Amman was chosen as the venue for the two-day meeting following the recent election of Arab Wings Managing Director Ramzi Shuwaybat as WACA's 11-member executive committee president.

Speaking at the closing ceremony on Saturday, Mr. Shuwaybat maintained that the meeting focused on "ways which WACA members can improve the performance of both their national carriers and the airline industry as a whole."

"WACA gathers the middle management of airlines, the sales people and all others who are in direct contact with the public,"

the new WACA president said, adding that WACA is a non-profit organisation aimed at establishing channels through which its members cannot only exchange ideas and experiences, but also create a better understanding among people of different cultures, history and religions."

This week's was the second WACA meeting held in Amman. In October 1995, the Jordan Interline Club, established in 1985, hosted WACA's 28th Annual General Assembly held under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan, Mr. Shuwaybat recalled.

He also said that the over 100 delegates taking part in this week's meeting met with officials from the ministries of tourism and transport, as well as high-ranking officials from the Royal Air Force.

Established in 1966 in

Cannes, WACA has developed an economic programme including airline and hotel cooperation workshops, airline business courses for high school graduates and industry speaker programmes, said WACA's Vice President for Public Relations Poppy Shiakalli.

Aside from economic programmes, WACA also participates and supports world social programmes and initiatives such as the International Years of the Child, the Disabled and the Elderly, and the Special Olympics. Ms. Shiakalli said.

Also, the association has promoted many activities in support of the Save the Children Fund and has contributed to charity programmes to aid civil populations struck by earthquakes. Ms. Shiakalli added.

Jordan Times Facsimile # 696183

What's Going On

CONCERT

Performance of French songs by Parisian singer Françoise LeGolván at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m.

FILM

"A Room With a View" at the British Council, Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

WORLDNET DIALOGUE

Worldnet dialogue via satellite on "African American Women in Today's Society" at the American Centre Auditorium 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. (The dialogue will be between participants in Washington and panelists in Amman. The Washington programme hosts are Shirley Jackson, Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Senator Carol Mosley-Deane. Jordan will be represented by Nancy Baker, Assistant to the Secretary General of the Higher Council for Science and Technology for Administrative and Financial Affairs; Hala Fattah, a researcher at HRH Crown Prince Hassan's office; and Caroline Faraj, a journalist at Al-Rai's Arabic daily.)

LECTURE

"Horizons of cooperation among universities: scientific research institutions and industrial institutions in the Arab World" by Dr. Ahmad Wazir, Syrian Minister of Higher Education, at the American Centre Auditorium 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

DAR

08:00 - 09:00
09:00 - 10:00
10:00 - 11:00
11:00 - 12:00
12:00 - 13:00
13:00 - 14:00
14:00 - 15:00
15:00 - 16:00
16:00 - 17:00
17:00 - 18:00
18:00 - 19:00
19:00 - 20:00
20:00 - 21:00
21:00 - 22:00
22:00 - 23:00
23:00 - 24:00

Water Flights
17:00
18:00
19:00
20:00
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22:00
23:00
24:00

Revival Wings (RW) Flights
17:00
18:00
19:00
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21:00
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23:00
24:00

MUJAZ HAWAY TRAIN
Dep. Amman 8:00 AM (1997)

Zaire refuses talks with rebels, despite Mandela's optimism

KINSHASA (AFP) — The Zairean government has ruled out talks with rebels advancing on the key eastern city of Kisangani, despite a statement by South African President Nelson Mandela Monday that progress had been made towards ending the conflict.

The African states leading efforts towards peace in Zaire hope to meet Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko on March 19, Mr. Mandela told journalists in Stellenbosch, outside Cape Town.

He said "a great deal of progress" has been made in the multinational efforts to end the bloody civil war in Africa's Great Lakes region. But efforts which began last week, led by Mr. Mandela and backed by the United States, to organise a meeting in Cape Town between Zaire's government and rebels have so far elicited only hostility from Zaire.

The rebels announced Friday they were suspending their advance on Kisangani

for attempts by U.S. and South African officials to broker peace talks, but the fall of a government town was announced Sunday.

The efforts in Cape Town failed after Kinshasa rejected negotiations with the rebels after representatives of both sides had met mediators separately for talks shrouded in secrecy.

Zairean rebel leader Laurent-Désiré Kabila threatened Sunday to raze the whole country to the ground if his arch enemy Mobutu did not pursue negotiations. Speaking on rebel radio in the eastern town of Bukavu, Mr. Kabila added he was "ready to go to Cape Town to meet political leaders of the same level."

The Zairean government, which considers the rebellion as an act of aggression by its neighbours Rwanda, Uganda, and to a lesser degree, Burundi, has responded that such talks aimed to "transform the war of invasion into a civil war," and were an affront to Zaire's

internal institutions. "For the government, negotiating with Mr. Kabila would amount to legitimising him and to granting him a status which he does not have," according to the latest statement from the Zairean council of ministers.

Sources close to Mr. Mobutu, speaking from his villa in the south of France where he has been undergoing medical tests, following his recovery from prostate cancer, said Sunday there had never been any question of sending a diplomat to Cape Town for talks, especially with Mr. Kabila.

Mr. Mobutu's special advisor stayed in Cape Town last week, but has denied that his presence there was linked to talks on the rebellion.

"There is no question of negotiations at close hand or at a distance," he told Radio France Internationale (RFI).

Meanwhile, the Zairean Defence Ministry has issued statements reiterating that

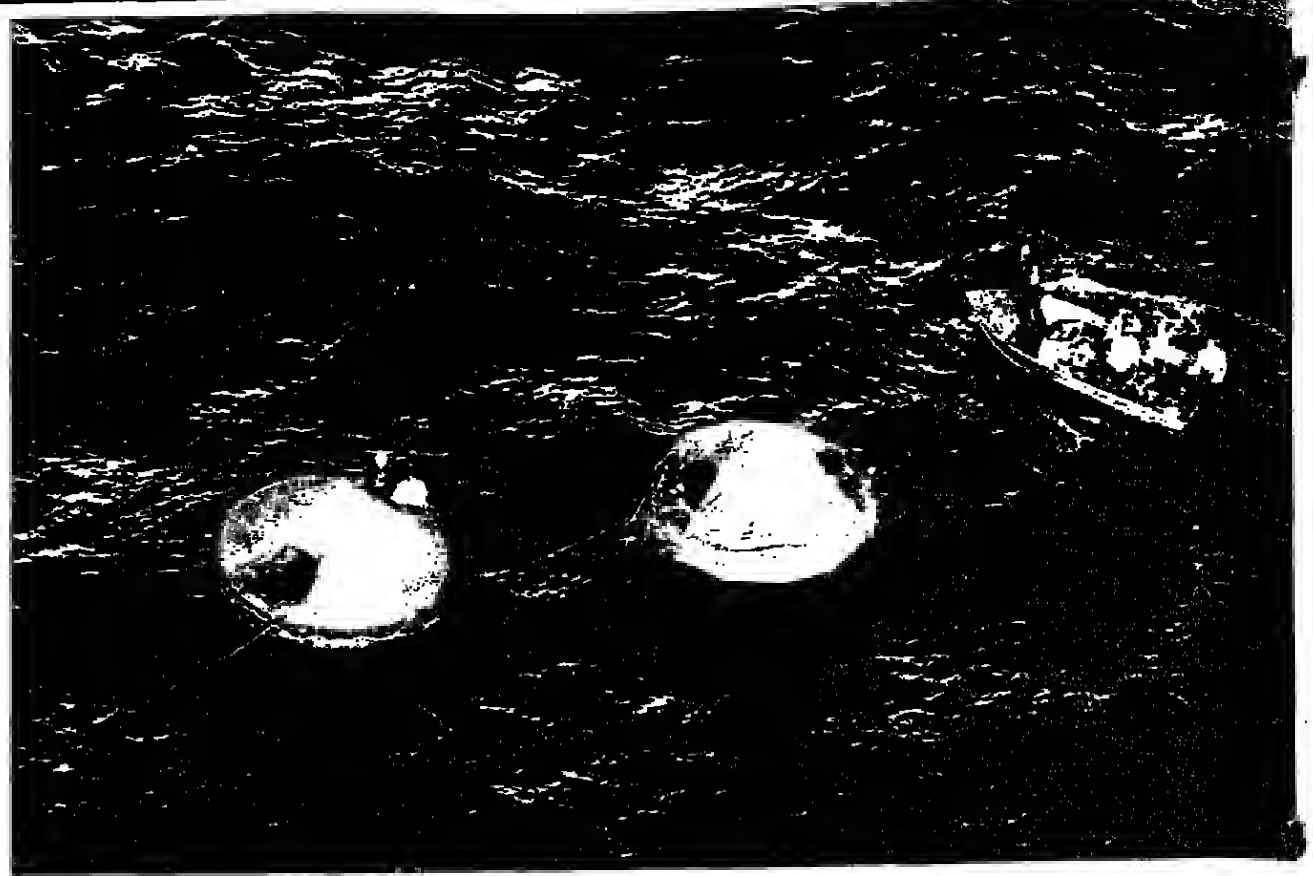
Zairean Armed Forces were "determined to pursue the war" until the enemy was wiped out.

For all the government's bellicosity, the fall of Kisangani, some 300 kilometres southeast of Kinshasa, which serves as a base for Zairean government forces, announced Sunday is being seen as a further setback for the government.

Fighting broke out in eastern Zaire in October, when mainly Tutsi rebels launched a campaign that has since escalated into an offensive to overthrow Mr. Mobutu. They claim they now control 20 per cent of Zaire.

In rebel-held Bukavu, Mr. Kabila said Sunday his forces had resumed the offensive towards Kisangani.

Mr. Kabila said his fighters were advancing on the town of Gbadolite in the north, where Mr. Mobutu customarily resides when he is in Zaire, and were only "a few kilometres" from Kisangani Airport.



Passengers and crew from the Cook Island's MV Avatapu inter-island trading ship wave to a Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) plane in the South Pacific 434 kilometres north-west of Rarotonga after abandoning their burning ship 200 nautical miles from the nearest land Monday. The ship's 25 passengers, who were unhurt after a fire broke out in the engine room, drifted 30-hours before a Fiji cargo ship alerted by a commercial aircraft rescued them (Reuter photo)

Fijian ship rescues 25 adrift in South Pacific

WELLINGTON (R) — A Fiji ship Monday rescued 25 passengers who had drifted for 30 hours in lifeboats after their ship caught fire in the South Pacific, rescue officials said.

New Zealand rescue coordinators said the 25 passengers and crew of the MV Avatapu, including three children, were safely transferred to the Fiji-registered cargo ship Pacific Explorer in the early hours of Monday.

"They were still all bappy,

well and in good spirits," said Flight Lieutenant Jeff Barracough of the New Zealand Air Force's Rescue Coordination Centre.

He said the Pacific Explorer was on its way to Rarotonga in the Cook Islands and should arrive late Tuesday.

An engine-room fire forced the MV Avatapu's 25 passengers to abandon the 250-tonne inter-island trading ship Saturday evening, while sailing in the Cook Islands group. No one was killed in the fire.

Some 200 nautical miles from the nearest land, the passengers took to the lifeboats and sent a distress beacon which was picked up by satellite and spotted by a commercial aircraft flying over the region.

A New Zealand Air Force Orion aircraft was dispatched from Auckland, and early Sunday dropped food, medical supplies and a radio transmitter to the survivors.

Flt. Lt. Barracough said a second Orion arrived at the scene around midnight Sun-

day and acted as a homing signal for two ships, the Pacific Explorer and the Russian container vessel Anadyr, which were diverted to the scene.

"After that it was all fairly standard. They transferred the passengers onto the Pacific Explorer, and even recovered the lifeboats," he said. He could not confirm the nationality of the passengers.

After the rescue, the abandoned vessel was left afloat and on fire.



A University student shouts during a riot outside the Kenya secret police building on Feb. 24. Hundreds of Nairobi University students took to the streets Monday in a second day of protests at the mysterious death of a student leader. Groups of students peacefully marched through the city centre singing solemn songs in memory of Solomon Muriu who died in an explosion and fire early Sunday (Reuter photo)

Kenyan students take to streets after leader's death

NAIROBI (R) — Hundreds of Nairobi University students took to the streets of the city Monday in a second day of protests at the mysterious death of a student leader.

Witnesses said riot police ringed off the main university campus in a bid to forestall riots which started late Sunday, when students stoned cars on the city's main highway.

Groups of students peacefully marched through the city centre singing solemn songs in memory of Solomon Muriu, who mysteriously died in an explosion and fire early Sunday.

"We want justice," the students chanted as they converged on President Daniel Arap Moi's office, National Police Headquarters and the parliament building.

Tyres were set ablaze outside the campus on university way, part of the main Uhuru Highway dissecting the city, but protests were mainly peaceful Monday.

Officials at Nairobi University, Kenya's biggest, suspended all teaching and

other campus activities. Protests started late Sunday when students closed Uhuru Highway to traffic for hours by stoning vehicles, ripping down billboards and pulling concrete flower pots into a sidewalk.

They said they took to the streets after seeing on KTN commercial television the charred body of Muriu, found in his hall of residence early Sunday.

KTN quoted a security officer as saying there was an explosion in Muriu's room followed by a fire. There were no other victims.

Muriu, a fourth year education student, had said he received death threats last week. He said he was kidnapped by police in November after complaining about conditions at the university, beaten and dumped in a churchyard.

Police denied Muriu's allegations. Senior police officers declined comment about the student protests Monday or were unavailable when Reuters contacted national and provincial police headquarters.

One section of Uhuru Highway was closed Monday morning with motorists told to turn back because of more trouble. The closure led to a major traffic snarl-up.

A police statement made no mention of Muriu's death but instead took issue with a leading independent newspaper, the Daily Nation, for giving a "misleading" account Monday of Muriu's abduction in November.

"As far as we know, this matter is still under investigation and no conclusion has been reached," the statement said.

The student unrest is particularly sensitive as Kenya goes to presidential and parliamentary elections by early 1998.

In December, President Arap Moi sacked Kenya's police commissioner after two students were fatally shot by police during a demonstration at Nairobi's Kenyatta University.

A dozen policemen were later charged in a court with the deaths at the university.

Vietnam supreme court judge jailed for corruption

HANOI (AFP) — A Hanoi court sentenced a people's Supreme Court judge to two years in jail for corruption, press reports said Monday, in one of the strongest signs yet of the government's determination to stamp out graft.

Bui Van Tham, former vice-president of the Civil Court of the People's Supreme Court (CPS), and a judge at the CPS, the highest court in Vietnam, is the first member of the judiciary to be convicted of corruption, reports said.

He was arrested in December 1995 after being accused of receiving a \$4,000 bribe during a trial in Ho Chi Minh City over a property case.

The woman who paid him received a 30-month suspended jail sentence.

Mr. Tham's sentencing is the latest in a wave of corruption cases which have come to light this year.

In the most celebrated, four officials at state-owned trading company tamexco were sentenced to death in January over the embezzlement of \$40 million in state funds.

The authorities have redoubled efforts to stamp out government graft at all levels since the most recent meeting of the National Assembly last October, where Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet lashed out at the government for its failure to curb corruption.

"We now need tougher measures against embezzlement because previous instructions by the government have been ineffective," Mr. Kiet told assembly members.

Tribunals have since clamped down on corruption cases as the government grows increasingly determined to battle this "National Scourge," reports said.

A report released last year by the Hong Kong-based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy (PERC) ranked Vietnam as one of the most corrupt countries in Asia along with China.

Corruption has cost the country hundreds of millions of dollars and has proved a major hindrance to the implementation of foreign investment projects, National Assembly Speaker Nong Duc Manh was quoted as saying recently.

Berisha looks to new term as Albania foment

TIRANA (R) — Albanian President Sali Berisha, facing weeks of protests over dubious investment schemes, was certain to be re-elected by his right-wing Democratic Party this week to stand for a fresh five-year term as head of state.

Mr. Berisha, a 52-year-old former heart surgeon, has to seek reelection by parliament by mid-March but there is little doubt he will be returned to power by an assembly dominated by democrats after last year's disputed general election.

Despite the certainty, Mr. Berisha toured the Balkan state of 3.4 million people last week in an attempt to drum up support following anti-government demonstrations, many of them violent, sparked by the crash of Pyramid investment schemes in January.

On Sunday, around 5,000 marchers staged a noisy but peaceful protest in the southern port of Vlore for a 19th day to demand the dis-

missal of Prime Minister Aleksander Meksi's government over its handling of the investment scandal.

The demonstrators rallied in front of Vlore University to express support for 53 students inside, who, have been on hunger strike since Thursday.

Thousands of impoverished Albanians lost their savings, many of them after selling homes and businesses to pour cash into the schemes offering up to 60 per cent interest a month. Officials estimate \$1 to \$2 billion could have been lost in the schemes.

Five of the investment schemes have collapsed leaving many savers destitute. Thousands of ordinary people have turned their anger on Mr. Berisha and Mr. Meksi, blaming them for failing to regulate the schemes or warning investors about the potential dangers of losing their cash.

The government has repeatedly said there will be no reimbursement from the

state, already burdened by a huge deficit.

Mr. Berisha has told hapless investors they had learned a hard lesson from the country's recent embrace of capitalism. The Pyramids used cash from new investors to pay interest as high as 60 per cent a month to earlier investors before collapsing.

There was more bad news on Sunday for investors in one of the collapsed schemes, Gjallica, from a state commission set up to investigate the scandal.

Commission head Blerim Cela told state television that it had identified around \$28 million of Gjallica's assets to cover the outstanding \$145 million owed to thousands of investors.

The relatively prosperous south has been particularly hard hit by the collapse of the Pyramid Schemes and the region around Vlore invested heavily in the Gjallica fund.

The couple who ran the fund have fled Albania but

they have been charged with fraud along with 20 other defendants.

"How can the government which was in power during the theft be trusted to make sure the money is returned?" asked protester Engjell Dine. "We're determined to keep going."

"All of our families invested in Gjallica and they lost all their savings. It has affected the lives of everyone in Vlore," student leader Leonard Kajali told Reuters.

Addressing a crowd of supporters in the northern city of Shkoder Saturday, Mr. Berisha blamed the main opposition Socialist Party for exploiting the unrest — the worst crisis to face Mr. Berisha and the democrats since they won power in 1992.

The Socialists changed their name from the Communist Party after Albania emerged from 45 years of ruthless Stalinist isolation in 1990 when there were no banks, no interest rates and no Pyramid schemes.

Blast in Algeria kills at least one

BOUFARIK, Algeria (AFP) — A bomb blast Monday killed at least one person, reportedly a 12-year-old boy, and wounded a dozen others at a cattle market in northern Algeria, witnesses said.

The boy was selling eggs at the market, held every Monday on a parking lot in this town 25 kilometres south of Algiers, when the blast occurred, witnesses said.

One of those injured was in critical condition.

The bomb, which caused only minor material damage, was apparently hidden in a plastic case.

The attack came as armed Algerian extremists vowed to step up their campaign against the government with explosions in the capital and in Blida, 50 kilometres south. Boufarik is located between the two.

The Armed Islamic Group, the most hardcore of Algeria's Muslim fundamentalist groups, announced a "new phase" in its battle against authorities in a statement signed by its leader, Antar Zouabri, published in the Al Hayat Arab daily in London.

It said it would slit the throats of "all the apostates

and their allies in towns and villages" and set "explosions in the very heart of Algiers and Blida."

Mr. Boufarik has already been the target of attacks by militant fundamentalists, particularly during this year's Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The deadliest occurred on Sept. 27 of last year when a car bomb went off in a market, killing 27 people.

The last car bomb attack to hit Algiers itself came on January 21, when a double explosion left seven dead and more than 50 injured, according to official reports. The press put the number killed at 17.

The new attack came as newspapers reported that 18 civilians had been killed in Algeria in a series of attacks over the last four days.

Fundamentalists mounted their insurgency against the government after the cancellation in January 1992 of a second round of elections that the now outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

According to the latest Western estimates, some 60,000 people have been killed in the violence since then.

Exiled king, citizenship restored, to visit Romania

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's exiled King Michael, his citizenship restored by the country's new centrist authorities, is to visit his homeland this week for the first time since a triumphant return five years ago, his office said.

A statement issued Monday by King Michael's office in the Swiss town of Versoix — three days after his citizenship was returned — said King Michael would arrive Friday for a "first stay" of five days in Bucharest.

It gave no indication whether King Michael, forced into exile by Communists in 1947, would meet President Emil Constantinescu.

But he thanked Romania's new leaders, who ousted ex-Communists in November elections, for allowing the visit to take place "and re-establishing democracy in our country."

The anticipation felt throughout my life has been vindicated.

"I am coming not to take but to give, not to divide but to unite. I am coming to help, through my efforts combined with yours to rid Romania of its past miseries and tragic events."

King Michael, 75, is respected for breaking Romania's World War II al-

liance with Nazi Germany in 1944 and switching his allegiance to the allies. He was dethroned by Moscow-backed Communists who seized power after Soviet troops occupied Romania at the close of the war.

King Michael's status became an issue during the November campaign, when President Ion Iliescu accused his right-of-centre rivals of wanting to restore the monarchy and overturn the post-Communist republican constitution.

In his message, King Michael said his oath obliged him to refrain during his visit from raising constitutional or "material" issues — meaning claims to confiscated property.

King Michael is to lay a wreath in University Square, where dozens of people died in the 1989 upheaval, and attend a service at the Romanian Orthodox Church's main cathedral.

Government officials were unavailable for comment on the visit. But the National Peasant Party, the main group within the ruling coalition, described the visit as private and praised it as a "natural event after a long and unjust exile."

China's leader Deng Xiaoping Monday announced the death of a high-ranking official, a move seen as a warning to the military.

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Albright, P. China, say

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright Monday said she would not visit China until it improves its human rights record.

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Sri Lanka of acres

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lanka's government has agreed to return vast areas of land to the Tamil minority, a move seen as a warning to the military.

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Pirates kill

ZAMBANGA (AFP) — Suspected Muslim guerrillas have killed a ferry carrying 15 people in the southern Philippines, a move seen as a warning to the military.

Deng Xiaoping cremated

BEIJING (R) — China cremated its paramount leader Deng Xiaoping Monday after his successor President Jiang Zemin and the elite of the ruling Communist Party bowed before the body of the man who transformed the nation.

Mr. Deng had lain in state surrounded by flowers and cypress branches in the 301 Military Hospital before making his last journey to the Babaoshan Cemetery, the Xinhua News Agency said.

"Eternal glory to comrade Deng Xiaoping," read a banner above his body in the hospital where his body lay since he died last Wednesday, aged 92.

His designated heir Jiang Zemin, Li Peng, the five other members of the all-powerful politburo and several other leaders, wearing black armbands and with a white paper flower of mourning in their buttonholes, bowed three times before the body.

A black van bedecked with white and yellow ribbons, the colours of mourning, carried Deng's body at a stately pace to the cemetery in western Beijing where Chinese communism's heroes are traditionally laid to rest.

"Scatter hot tears for comrade Xiaoping," read a banner with black characters held up by one group of people.

"Go gently, Xiaoping," read another.

Hundreds of armed police, a fraction of the huge security force activated as China reads warily along the road of political transition, lined streets along the 2.5-kilometre route to the cemetery.

The cortege moved at a pace allowing thousands of mourners lining the route a last glimpse of the man who ruled China for 18 years with a blend of capitalist-style economic policies and Communist political control.

"I have come to say goodbye to Deng Xiaoping," said a young man.

As the cavalcade passed, people stood on roofs of buildings or climbed up lamp posts for a better view.

But some residents did not know Deng's body was to be moved and were upset that their routine had been disrupted.

"Hey, move it, some of us have to go to work," grumbled one middle-aged woman pushing her bicycle through the crowd.

Outside Babaoshan stood hundreds of workers bussed in from the nearby steel works.

One manager of the giant state-run enterprise, Yue Wenhui, 44, asked why he was willing to wait outside on a windy day, said: "The weather is good. It is as misty as our hearts."

Deng, an opponent of the leadership cult around his predecessor Mao Tsetong, made clear he wanted more restrained mourning than the near-hysteria that followed Mao's demise in 1976.

No foreign dignitaries have been invited to Tuesday's rites in the Great Hall.

Deng's ashes will be scattered at sea.

Deng's family requested that his body not be put on display, that his casket be donated to an eye bank and his body offered for medical dissection before cremation.

China has sought to project stability and continuity in the aftermath of Deng's death, painfully aware of the tumult that has often followed the death of strongmen throughout China's history.

Since his death authorities have heightened their security watch around the capital and especially in Tiananmen Square, the vast central space where, in 1989, student-led protests were crushed by troops and tanks at Deng's behest.

Deng's ashes were taken from the Babaoshan Cemetery late Monday to be put on display at the Great Hall of the People for his funeral.

The ashes were carried in a Chinese-made red flag limousine, decorated with yellow and black ribbons.

Another three red flag cars completed the convoy.

The ashes were to be displayed in the Great Hall of the People during Tuesday's formal state funeral attended by 10,000 people.

Deng was cremated Monday morning in a 15-minute ceremony attended by his immediate family and top Chinese leaders, including President Jiang and Premier Li.



The funeral cortege containing the body of China's former paramount leader Deng Xiaoping is driven through the streets of Beijing Monday. Thousands of policemen and mourners lined the capital's streets to show their respects to the leader whose policies transformed the country from a backward Stalinist state to an economic powerhouse. Deng, aged 92, died on Feb. 19 (Reuters photo)

rift in South Pacific

200 nautical miles from the nearest land, the ship's 25 passengers, who were unhurt, were rescued by a commercial fishing vessel.

as Albania former

Albania's former president, Sali Berisha, has been elected to the post of prime minister of the country.

Exiled king, citizens restored, to visit Rome

The exiled king of Romania, Nicolae Ceausescu, and his wife Elena, are expected to visit Rome.

Albright, pressing human rights in China, says change will take time

BEIJING (AFP) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright urged Chinese leaders Monday to release all political prisoners but acknowledged that the process will take time.

Dressed in black out of respect for the mourning of the death of Chinese paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, Mrs. Albright confidently asserted that China and the United States could work together despite differences.

Mrs. Albright held talks with Foreign Minister Qian Qichen before heading into meetings with Premier Li Peng and President Jiang Zemin the day before Deng was cremated here following his death aged 92 on Wednesday.

Reiterating past promises to speak out against repression, Ms. Albright vowed to discuss the plight of prominent pro-democracy activists currently behind bars and plans for prison visits by international monitors.

"There have been some releases (of political prisoners), which we welcome. Obviously we would like to see more," Mrs. Albright said at the outset of talks with Mr. Qian at the Dailiyu state guest house.

But she added: "We understand that this is a long process."

Washington has asked China to release eight pro-democracy activists including Wang Dan and Wei Jingsheng, according to U.S. officials. So far, three have regained their freedom.

For his part, Mr. Qian brushed aside questions about the release of dissidents, saying that the "judicial department of China will act independently in this regard."

According to the New York Times Monday an agreement is in the works under which Beijing would agree to take steps to improve its human rights record in exchange for a U.S. pledge not to press for a resolution criticizing China at the annual U.N. Human Rights Conference in Geneva next month.

The Chinese foreign minister noted that there had been "progress" recently in relations between the two countries and asserted that "Sino-U.S. relations face opportunity for further improvement and progress."

U.S. Vice-President Al Gore is expected here next month although no formal dates have been set for the visit and an exchange of presidential visits should take place later this year and in early 1998.

Ms. Albright was wrapping up a 10-day five-nation world tour that took her to major capitals in Europe and to Seoul, Tokyo and finally Beijing, considered the highlight of her journey.

The U.S. secretary of state, who was making her first trip overseas since taking office last month, also raised Hong Kong's reversion to Chinese rule, saying that the British territory's "way of life, economic fiber and basic freedoms should continue unchanged."

"I look forward to discussing China's plans for preserving Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy," she said.

Ms. Albright also stated that China should seek a "peaceful resolution" to differences with Taiwan, which Beijing considers a rebel province.

Her comments came as Taipei announced it had begun to assemble U.S. Patriot missiles to deploy on its territory.

The United States switched diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to mainland China in 1979 and Beijing insists that any country with which it has diplomatic relations does not also recognise Taiwan.

Talks with Chinese leaders were also to focus on Beijing's entry into the World Trade Organisation, stability on the Korean peninsula and weapons non-proliferation, Ms. Albright said.

Earlier at the U.S. embassy here, Ms. Albright underscored the importance Washington attributes to its ties to China, which have emerged from a rough patch over the past year.

"There is no question that our relationship with China is key to stability and prosperity in the 21st century," Ms. Albright told a group of Americans who welcomed her at the U.S. embassy here.

Relations between the United States and China plummeted in 1994 after U.S. President Bill Clinton granted a visa to Taiwan's President Lee Teng-Hui, a move seen as signalling U.S. support for Taiwan's independence drive.

S. Korea wants to bring defector to Seoul

SEOUL (R) — South Korea is to seek to bring a senior North Korean defector directly to Seoul from China when it resumes talks on his fate after the funeral of China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, Seoul officials said Monday.

Talks on the fate of North Korea's top ideologue, Hwang Jang-Yop, were put on hold after Deng's death last Wednesday, with all contacts reduced to working level, they said.

"We will meet Chinese officials on Feb. 26 and convey our basic stand that Mr. Hwang's free will to come to South Korea must be respected," Foreign Ministry spokesman Lee Kyu-Hyung told Reuters.

Deng's funeral is set for Tuesday.

"We would like to bring Hwang directly to Seoul but technical details will be worked out through consultations with China," Mr. Lee said. "If the direct route is not possible, we would discuss other options."

Mr. Hwang, ranked 24th in the Pyongyang hierarchy, has been marooned at Seoul's consulate office in Beijing since Feb. 12 when he turned up there with an aide to seek asylum. This left China torn between long-time ideological ally North Korea and new business partner South Korea.

Mr. Lee denied media reports that China and South Korea had already reached basic agreement for Mr. Hwang to leave Beijing before the end of this week.

"We have had no substantive contacts with the Chinese officials since Deng Xiaoping's death and we have not reached any agreement," he said.

Pyeongyang initially accused southern officials of kidnapping Mr. Hwang and demanded that China return him to the north but later appeared to back-track, saying that if it transpired that he had defected he would be stripped of his official rank.

China's official Xinhua News Agency finally indicated last week that Beijing had determined that Mr. Hwang entered the South Korean mission of his own free will. A Seoul official said this suggested that talks over Mr. Hwang could now make rapid progress.

Information Minister Oh In-Hwan was asked in parliament if Seoul's announcement of Mr. Hwang's defection had angered China and caused a delay in Mr. Hwang's departure.

Indian fire disaster death toll set to pass 200

BARIPADA (AFP) — Officials here Monday predicted the death toll following a horrific blaze at a religious ceremony would pass 200 as police and volunteers continued to sift through the charred debris.

Around 100 badly burned bodies were still strewn across open ground Monday, more than 24 hours after Sunday's fire near this eastern town.

Police Superintendent Raj Kishore Das put the official casualty list at 194 but both he and local doctors said many more of the 30 critically injured survivors in hospital would not survive.

The blaze, sparked by an electrical fault and aggravated by gas cylinder explosions, occurred at 3:30 p.m. (1000 GMT) towards the end of a three-day ceremony and killed 154 Hindu devotees instantly, officials said.

About 7,000 followers of a Hindu sect leader were attending a religious speech when the fire broke out at Madhuban in Baripada district, some 350 kilometres from Bhubaneswar, capital of the coastal state of Orissa.

The flames, in the men's camp housing around 4,000 people, ripped through straw and canvas sheds and tents housing the devotees, mostly from Orissa and the nearby states of West Bengal and Bihar.

Indian Prime Minister H. D. Deve Gowda visited the site of the tragedy Monday, staying for 15 minutes.

Vinay Kumar Aggarwal, of Baripada Hospital, said: "There are 30 patients who are critical. Eight children have died in hospital while five women were killed in the fire."

"More than 300 locals are helping clear up the debris. Most of the bodies are burnt horribly," his colleague A.K. Mishra said. "We have never seen anything like this before... now we know what a tragedy it is."

The toll is certain to go over 200. Many of those critically injured will not survive.

Witnesses said many of those killed and injured were crushed in a stampede as the crowds panicked.

A.B. Tripathi, police chief of Orissa state, told AFP: "We have started a post-mortem but it is meaningless because the bodies are charred beyond recognition. Identification is virtually impossible and the cause of the fire is known. The exercise is a mere formality."

He said: "The latest report says there was a short-circuit. The fire spread in the kitchen where a cylinder burst... and then it was uncontrollable."

He added that a mass cremation would be held later Monday.

D.S. Jena, a Baripada resident said the town, the headquarters of Baripada district with a population of about 70,000, though stunned by the tragedy went about its daily business Monday. "Schools and shops are open," he said.

Sunday's inferno is the second major Indian fire disaster after a blaze in December 1995 killed more than 420 people at a school party in the northern Indian town of Dahwali.

A blazing canopy fell on 2,000 people at an end of year school party, sparking a stampede for the single exit. Another 600 people were injured in that incident.

NATO, Russia begin dialogue on enlargement

BRUSSELS (R) — North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and Russia appear to have entered a business-like dialogue over their future relationship amid signs that Russia has resigned itself to NATO's eastward enlargement but is determined to get the highest price it can.

Continuing a frantic merry-go-round of diplomatic activity, Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov flew out of Brussels Monday in Norway after meeting NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana for the second time in five weeks in Brussels.

After their talks a brief statement said: "Progress is emerging although differences remain." It added preparations would begin at once for another meeting between the two men in Moscow.

Mr. Primakov declined to talk to journalists during his visit to Brussels. Early Monday, a black limousine swept the former cold war spy-master to a private plane waiting in a secluded corner of Brussels airport. He left shortly afterwards.

While NATO insists it will not let Moscow have a veto over who can join the alliance, it has offered a range of measures to try to reassure Russia that the admission of former Soviet satellites on its Western flank will not be a security threat.

It would like to set down an agreement guaranteeing Russia a place in the new European security architecture before a NATO summit in July, when the alliance is expected to invite Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic to join.

Mr. Yeltsin's foreign policy adviser, Dmitry Ryukov, told Russian TV6 television that any NATO enlargement, even if not intended to be hostile, would compromise Russia's security by letting the West's "military machine" approach its borders.

But he also conceded that Moscow could not stop enlargement.

And he indicated that its fears could be allayed if NATO, which has already pledged not to station nuclear weapons on the territory of new member states, gave guarantees limiting changes in the deployment of forces on the ground.

"If we can reach agreement on that, then the consequences of expansion for Russia would be minimal," he concluded.

This avenue is full of political complications for NATO, which is reluctant to let itself be told where it can and cannot station troops.

The head of NATO's military committee, General Klaus Naumann, has warned that the proposal risks making second-class allies of the new members, who themselves are wary of any hint they might be sold out by the West.

In the growing atmosphere of hard-nosed bargaining, alliance diplomats had said Mr. Solana planned to ask Mr. Primakov what Russia was offering in response to a range of alliance concessions made in the past few weeks.

This approach was intended to force the pace of negotiations while circumventing for now the problem of the form which an eventual agreement with Russia should take.

While Moscow is pushing hard for a legally binding document, NATO would much prefer a robust political commitment which would not need to go through ratification by 16 member countries.

Sri Lanka troops destroy thousands of acres of rice fields, rebels say

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lankan government forces have destroyed vast rice fields during an offensive to capture a main northern highway, Tamil Tiger guerrillas said Monday.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), in a statement from their London office, accused the government of economically crippling Tamil civilians in the region.

"Advancing Sri Lankan forces have burned, shelled and trampled 12,000 acres (4,850 hectares) of Tamil rice fields in their recent westwards march from Vavuniya," the LTTE statement said.

The remarks came as security forces opened the vital land route held by Tiger guerrillas for 10 years in northern Sri Lanka and began operating civilian buses and organised cargo convoys.

In another statement Sunday, the LTTE said a 17-day old government offensive to take the 77-kilometre highway linking Vavuniya with the north-western garrison town of Mannar created a tide of 10,000 refugees.

There were no major confrontations between the LTTE and the elite Special Forces commandos who led the military drive. The military said it killed six LTTE men and destroyed four abandoned Tiger bases during the campaign.

Defence officials said with the linking of Mannar to the military frontline at Vavuniya, pressure would ease on the country's tiny air force and the navy.

Pirates kill 3 in Filipino ferry hijacking

ZAMBOANGA (AFP) — Suspected Muslim guerrillas hijacked a ferry in the southern Philippines killing three people who fought back as the gunmen robbed them of money and valuables, police and witnesses said Monday.

The terrifying ordeal for the 50 passengers began at dusk Sunday as the Fortune ferry left the town of Sirawai headed for Zamboanga, 80 kilometres south, Senior Superintendent Merlito Te said.

Seven armed men, thought to belong to the militant Abu Sayyaf group, who were hiding among the passengers, hijacked the ferry just after it left the harbour, Mr. Te, the provincial police chief, told reporters.

Three male passengers put up a fight and were shot dead, police said. Three other passengers were wounded.

The dead were named as Imam Banggi, Carlo Kibong and Armando Dingangan, police said.

The pirates collected 100,000 pesos (\$3,846) in money from the passengers and forced them at gunpoint to hand over their valuables, before speeding off in a waiting motorboat.

Three people were also wounded in the heist which happened in the waters off Balatucan point on the southern island of Mindanao.

Taiwan starts assembling Patriot missiles

TAIPEI (AFP) — Taiwan has begun assembling U.S. Patriot missiles to be deployed on its territory against any attack by arch-rival China, a military official said Monday.

The official quoted Defence Minister Chiang Chung-Ling as saying: "The Patriot missile system we purchased from the United States has arrived in Taiwan and assembly work of the system is going smoothly."

"After completion of the assembly work and practices, the ministry will display the system to the public," Mr. Chiang said.

"There is absolutely a need to deploy Patriot missiles to counter missile threats" from the mainland, he added, saying that China has installed a Russian-made anti-missile SA300 system in the southern Guangdong province.

China visibly displayed its anger against Taiwan, which it considers a renegade province, early last year when it staged six rounds of war games in the Taiwan Straits sparking international concern.

Despite strong protests from China, Washington sold 200 improved versions of the Patriot missiles and other facilities, to Taiwan in 1993.

The U.S. anti-missile air defence system is capable of partially destroying incoming ballistic missiles and will help Taiwan upgrade its air defences.

The first unit of the US-built Patriot air defence system comprising missile firing facilities and wheeled vehicles and multi-functional radar, is expected to be commissioned this year.

The Defence Ministry is reportedly planning to deploy the U.S. missiles in the three locations of Nankang, Linkou and Wanlin in the heavily-populated Taipei area in northern Taiwan.

China has accused the United States of violating a joint communiqué signed in 1979 by transferring advanced weaponry to Taiwan.

And it has charged that selling weapons to Taiwan will delay and undermine the peaceful reunification process between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait.

China has threatened to invade if the island declared formal independence.

Although the United States recognises Beijing rather than its longtime rival Taipei as the sole government of China, it continues to sell military equipment to the Nationalist island.

Mr. Chiang said "military procurement projects were going smoothly," adding Taiwan was "actively negotiating with foreign countries for procurement of sophisticated advanced traditional submarines."

He emphasised the need for an anti-missile system, saying it "is crucial to Taiwan's defence, we could hardly do anything when Beijing conducted a series of missile tests perilously near Taiwan last year."

The first batch of French-built Mirage 2000-5s and U.S.-built F-16 jet fighters are scheduled to arrive over the next few months.

Analyst sees dollar reaching 130 yen, 1.80 marks in one year

"Markets would be well served to watch carefully for any sign that wages are accelerating," as that is where the danger would lie, he warned.

The European monetary union was "very important" for the future of the mark against the dollar, although the greenback was likely to continue to rise against the mark, he said.

"Germany's economy is not competitive in the world, they have not yet made the governmental reforms that they must achieve to become more competitive," he said.

"They continue to resist, as much of Europe, the dismantling of the welfare state and they are behind in new technologies," the economist said.

"All of these are factors that tend to help strengthen the dollar against the mark," Mr. Straszheim said.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) If you need some important business information today, contact only those people with whom you know are reliable. Take no risks while driving on the highway later this evening, so you won't get into any difficulties.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Use your common sense today to help further business interests, and thereby make your career activities more successful. Make use of your free time later this evening to plan out a schedule for the days ahead.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Labour with your

ated "tooth and nail" with IMF, World Bank and European Union experts to achieve accords on financing for the reform programme, he said, but gave no details.

Romania expected a first tranche of a new 12-month stand-by loan accord negotiated with the fund to come in by April, Mr. Clorbea said, without quoting figures.

The government would submit to parliament up to 90 bills, aiming to bring existing laws in line with European standards, and to create facilities to attract foreign investors. "We count on a massive inflow of direct foreign investments this year. We had been starved of this kind of investments," Mr. Clorbea said.

Romania, eastern Europe's second-largest market after Poland, has seen only a fraction of the foreign investment poured into more advanced ex-communist neighbours.

"I know how humiliated we

Energy			* JOD Cross Rates		
Commodity	Last	Delivery	Currency	Buy	Sell
Coffee (c/bb)	170	Spot	US Dollar	0.708	0.710
Wheat (US)	220	Spot	US Dollar	1.701	1.706
Sugar (Shon)	150	Spot	DE Mark	0.427	0.4238
Soybean (US)	150	Spot	CH Franc	0.433	0.4267
Soy (c/bb)	147	Spot	FR Franc	0.125	0.1256
Wheat (Shon)	215	Spot	JP Yen	0.5764	0.5793
Barley (Shon)	235	Spot	NL Guilder	0.3752	0.3771
Rice (Shon)	4704	Spot	IT Lira	0.4247	0.4268

- 10 Boxing great
- 11 Farm enclosures
- 12 Leslie Caron
role
- 13 Agate variety
- 21 Exorbitant
- 23 Monogram of
35A
- 26 Abnormal
breathing sound
- 27 Healing plant
- 30 Tidy
- 31 Playthings
- 32 Certain warhead
- 33 Draft status
- 34 One standing
alone
- 36 Superior mind
- 37 Auberjonois TV
role
- 40 Company plan
letters
- 41 Mil. alliance
- 42 Santiago's land

MUTT, I GOTTA USE THE PHONE QUICK!

HELLO DRUGSTORE, I JUST SWALLOWED SOME OVERDOSE CONCENTRATED VITAMIN PILLS FOR PLANTS BY MISTAKE! I THOUGHT THEY WERE ASPIRIN!

JUST A SECOND-- I'LL LOOK IT UP!

HELLO, YES, YES! -- YOU CAN'T FIND AN ANTIDOTE BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT?

AS NEAR AS YOU CAN FIGURE IT OUT I ONLY SWALLOWED TWO SHOVELFULS OF FERTILIZER!

by Ted Griffin

to October 22) Take some time today to discuss various home life difficulties with your family, thereby you can relieve any tension which could exist. Get your home in order for any special guests which happen to drop in.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can have a meeting today with a fellow associate whose ideas are similar to your own and thereby get many tasks completed. Handle your correspondence with great dispatch and you will gain recognition from bigwigs.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Know what your financial situation is today before you incur any more debts. Take advantage of any ideas given to you from experts and thereby you can gain the success and prosperity which you have long searched for.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can gain some long sought-after goals easily today, so make every effort to achieve them. Be sociable later this evening, however steer clear of a superior who is on an ego trip and wants to take over.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Try to make a favour you do today for your family benefit you as well. If your intimate requests information about a private matter, be sure to get it so that he or she will be appreciative of your actions.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A good friend whose care is interested in your welfare can tell you today how to brighten your life. This person can also help you financially, so make every effort to be as investigative of him or her with great success.

[illegible]

Chang wins Memphis final

MEMPHIS (R) — Top seed Michael Chang ended nine years of frustration at the St. Jude tennis tournament Sunday by beating Todd Woodbridge in the finals of the \$825,000 ATP Tour event.

Chang, the world's fourth-ranked player, had reached the semifinals at Memphis four times since turning pro here as a 16-year-old in 1988, but had never reached the championship singles match.

He made the most of his first appearance, however, beating the eighth-seeded Australian 6-3 6-4.

Chang, who celebrated his 25th birthday Saturday, pocketed \$120,000 and earned enough computer points to jump into number three when the next rankings are issued on Monday.

The diminutive American pressed the Australian's serve throughout. Chang broke Woodbridge's serve four times, despite the Australian saving nine other break-points.

Chang improved to 11-2 lifetime against Woodbridge, who won last month's Australian hard-court event in Adelaide to



Michael Chang

trumpet his emergence as a singles player. Woodbridge and compatriot Mark Woodforde are the world's top doubles team.

Against Woodbridge, who had not lost a set in reaching the final, was hampered by a rash of unforced errors. Chang broke the Australian in the second game of the match and in the eighth game.

Chang wasted little time in the second set, breaking Woodbridge in the opening game when Woodbridge netted a backhand. Chang stunned Woodbridge in the

third game with a powerful forehand that led to another break and a 3-0 lead.

Chang finished it with a booming ace and immediately turned to his family in the stands and flashed a thumbs up.

"It is such a thrill for me to win here," Chang said. "This is definitely one of my favourite tournaments to come to year after year."

Woodbridge, winner of eight Grand Slam doubles titles, had an easier trip to the finals than Chang. The Australian's march included victories over 13th seed Jonas Bjorkman, unseeded

Jeff Tarango and unseeded Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten, who upset second seed Andre Agassi in the second round.

Chang had to fight through Patrick Rafter, 15th seed Kenneth Carlsen, seventh seed Richey Reneberg and two-time Memphis champion Todd Martin in the semifinals.

"It was a tough week of tennis for me," Chang said.

Chang said he expected to see more of Woodbridge in the finals of tour events in the coming years. Woodbridge, ranked 32nd, said he's looking to reach the top 20 by year's end and hopes to perform better in singles at Grand Slam events.

Despite losing in straight sets, Woodbridge said he felt he played a more competitive match than in the past. Still, Chang's speed and quickness were too much to overcome.

"Michael has the best set of wheels in tennis," Woodbridge said. "What makes him so dangerous are the first two to three steps and the takeoff. He can get to balls that at first he's not sure where they are going."

Rosset beats Henman to win EC tournament

ANTWERP (R) — Big-serving Swiss Marc Rosset overcame British number one Tim Henman 6-2, 7-5, 6-4 to win the \$1 million European Community tennis championship Sunday.

It was the 12th career singles title for the 1992 Olympic champion and his first since June 1995.

Rosset, the World No. 23 but unseeded here, was always in control and cancelled out most of Henman's break points with his big serve, which he repeatedly hit at more than 200 kph.

Sixth-seeded Henman, the World No. 19 who won his first ATP Tour title in Sydney last month, struggled with his own first serve and with Rosset's mixture of powerful ground strokes.

It was the third final and just the fourth defeat in less than two months for Henman, who had never before played Rosset, but he did not find anything like his best form.

Rosset, 26, collected \$162,500 for the victory and was also allowed to hold, briefly, a diamond-studded golden racket-shaped trophy on offer to anyone who wins the event three times in five years.

Last year's winner, Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, pulled out on Tuesday before his scheduled first-round match because of shoulder problems.

Livingston selected for World Indoor Championships

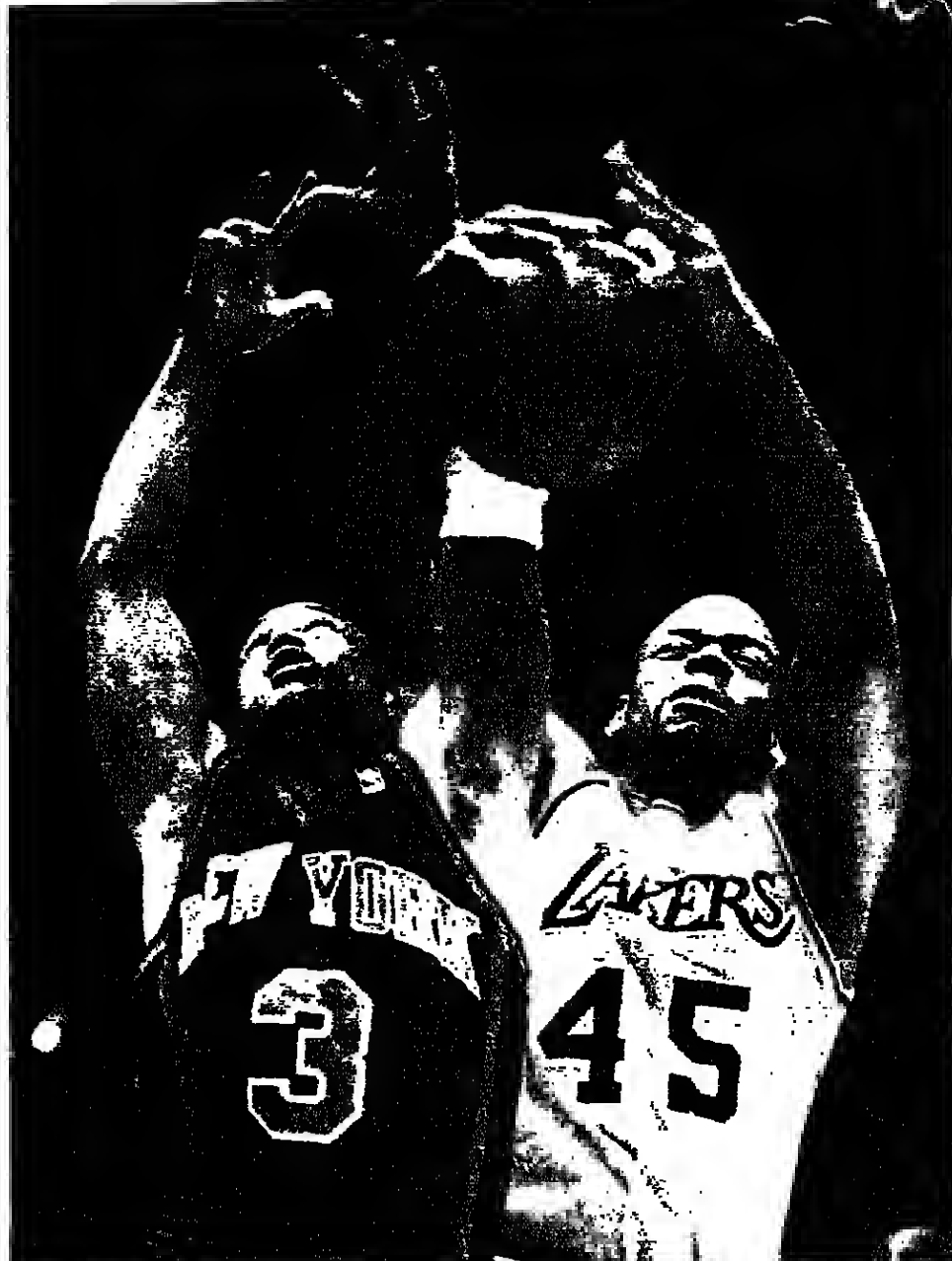
LONDON (R) — Jason Livingston, sent home from the 1992 Barcelona Olympics in disgrace after a positive dope test, has been included in the British team for next week's World Indoor Championships in Paris.

Livingston, who turns 26 next month, returned to the track this year after serving a four-year suspension. He won the European indoor 60 metres title five years ago in his last appearance for Britain.

Jamie Baulch, who beat American world indoor 400 metres champion Darnell Hall in Birmingham on Sunday for the fourth time this season, will be Britain's top medal hope.

World outdoor high hurdles record holder Colin Jackson, fastest man this year over the 60 metres hurdles, has also been included along with former Olympic and world 400 metres hurdles outdoor champion Sally Gunnell.

Gunnell, who was carried off the track injured in the semifinals at last year's Atlanta Olympics, will run the 400 metres flat along with national indoor champion Phyllis Smith. Smith is unbeaten this season.



Los Angeles Lakers' Sean Rooks (R) and New York Knicks' John Starks strike similar poses as they struggle to rebound Starks' shot in the second period of their NBA game in Inglewood (Reuters photo)

Ewing carries Knicks to double overtime win over Lakers

LOS ANGELES (R) — Patrick Ewing, coming off his worst game of the season, saved his best for last Sunday and scored 10 points in the second overtime as the New York Knicks outlasted the Los Angeles Lakers 127-121.

Ewing, who had seven points on 1-of-8 shooting in Friday's 84-64 loss at Seattle, scored 34 points and pulled down 25 rebounds — both season highs for the All Star — to help the Knicks (40-15) post their eighth win in nine games.

Ewing took charge after the Knicks blew a 10-point lead in the final three minutes of regulation. In the last two minutes of the game, he had five points, two rebounds and a block.

"I was disappointed that we blew the lead, but I'm happy we got the win," Ewing said. "We could've blown the lead and lost and that would have been worse, but it was a hard-fought game and we did what we had to do to get the win."

"I told Jeff (head coach Van Gundy) and the rest of the coaching staff to give me the damn ball (in OT)," Eiden Campbell, filling in at centre for the injured Shaquille O'Neal, had a career-high 40 points and 10 rebounds for the Lakers (38-16), who have lost three of four and fell one-half game behind Seattle for the Pacific Division lead.

A Campbell hucklet gave the Lakers their last lead, but he fouled out as Ewing converted a three-point play with 1:14 to go that put New York ahead 122-121.

"We just kept battling, we just ran out of bodies," Lakers guard Byron Scott said.

At Utah, Gary Payton scored nine of his 28 points in overtime — including the game-winning basket with three-tenths of a second left — as the Seattle Supersonics edged the Utah

Jazz 89-87 for their sixth straight victory.

Payton scored all but two of his team's points in the extra session and sank a long jumper from the corner to lift Seattle (38-15) into first place in the Pacific.

Delif Schrempf added 20 points for Seattle. Karl Malone led Utah (38-15) with 32 points and 10 rebounds.

In Houston, Brent Price scored nine of his 10 points in a second-quarter burst as the Houston Rockets got back on track with a 95-85 victory over the punchless San Antonio Spurs.

Hakeem Olajuwon scored 21 points and Charles Barkley added 19 for Houston (36-19), who had lost nine of their last 12.

Dominique Wilkins scored 28 points for the Spurs.

At Washington, Otis Thorpe had a dunk and short jumper in a decisive 8-0 fourth-quarter run to lead the Detroit Pistons to an 85-79 victory over the Washington Bullets.

The Pistons extended their winning streak to six games and improved to 40-13. Aaron McKie led Detroit with 16 points.

The Bullets are 0-17 against first and second-place teams this season. Chris Webber, after missing five games with back injury, led Washington with 19 points and 12 rebounds.

At Indiana, Penny Hardaway and Horace Grant combined for 13 points in a second-half run as the Orlando Magic used a balanced attack to pin a 99-90 defeat on the Indiana Pacers.

Grant finished with 19 points and Hardaway added 17 for Orlando. Reggie Miller scored 26 points and Rik Smits added 14 for Indiana.

In Miami, fill-in centre Isaac Austin scored 15 points to lead seven players in double figures as the

Miami Heat used a late fourth-quarter spurt to defeat the Denver nuggets 95-86.

Atlantic Division leading Miami (42-13), playing its first game without injured all-star centre Alonzo Mourning, trailed 82-81 with 5:57 to play but used a 12-2 run to seize control.

Laphonso Ellis had 29 points and nine rebounds for Denver.

In Vancouver, Bobby Phillips scored 10 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter to lead the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 91-84 victory over the Vancouver Grizzlies.

Tyronne Hill had 18 points and 17 rebounds for the Cavaliers (30-23), who won for the fifth time in six games.

Bryant Reeves had 26 points for the Grizzlies.

At New Jersey, newly acquired Sam Cassell scored 13 of his 20 points in the pivotal third quarter as the New Jersey Nets dealt the Boston Celtics their 10th straight loss 109-93.

Kendall Gill scored 24 points to lead the Nets, who won for the first time since the nine-player trade with Dallas on Monday. Eric Williams scored 27 points and Rick Fox added 22 for the road-weary Celtics, who completed a terrible 0-9 trip.

In Milwaukee, the Clippers held the Bucks scoreless for six minutes in the fourth quarter as Los Angeles rallied for a 99-86 victory for their first road win in six weeks.

In Phoenix, former Sun Michael Finley scored 20 points, including a late three-pointer, as the Dallas Mavericks rallied from a 16-point deficit to beat Phoenix 88-86.

"It was real emotional," Finley said. "It's like going against your big little brother. You want to beat them."

Becker out again with wrist problem

MILAN (AFP) — Boris Becker's wrist injury jinx struck again on Sunday when he was forced to withdraw from next week's Milan indoor event, the third successive event he has pulled out of.

The wrist, first injured last year at Wimbledon, has plagued the German for most of the month, forcing Becker to quit before a quarterfinal in Dubai and then pull out before playing even a spot last week in Antwerp.

Goran Ivanisevic, who also pulled out of Antwerp with tendinitis in his powerful left serving shoulder, is down as top seed in Milan, ahead of Dutchman Richard Krajicek, who has played only in Dubai since his December knee surgery.

Becker's place as third seed will be left vacant, with losing Antwerp finalist Tim Henman of Britain coming in as the tournament number four.

German Michael Stich — beaten in Antwerp's first round, where he lost in part as a result of his own chronic shoulder troubles — is seeded fifth.

Sixth seeded is Spain's Alberto Berasategui, with Antwerp champion Marc Rosset of Switzerland, last year's runner-up to Ivanisevic, the number seven. Spaniard Alex Corretja is seeded eighth.

The Milan withdrawal list makes depressing reading for the organisers.

Heading the list of those who have dropped out after Becker is World No. 8 Thomas Enqvist of Sweden who is nursing a right shoulder problem.

Compatriot Magnus, who came back from shoulder surgery in 1994, is out with the same problem.

Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov has not been seen on a court for almost two months after damaging his right hand in a mystery accident in his Melbourne hotel prior to January's Australian Open, which he skipped. He will also not be playing.

NBA trade question: will changes in latitude change attitudes?

EAST RUTHERFORD (R) — "Changes in latitude, changes in attitude" was the hopeful theme song of the NBA trading season as two bad teams swapped a slew of problem personalities, but the elite clubs mostly stood pat.

The trade deadline passed Thursday night with a flurry of minor deals on the heels of a blockbuster. However, only two top title contenders have made even one small tweak recently.

The Chicago Bulls — favoured to win their fifth championship of the Michael Jordan era — made no changes. Why should they, as long as they have Jordan?

Miami coach/general manager Pat Riley's Heat, with the second-best record in the NBA, added small forward Jamal Mashburn to centre Alonzo Mourning and guard Tim Hardaway, capitalising on Don Nelson's demolition and reconstruction of the hickering Dallas Mavericks.

Third best in the league, the Detroit Pistons were content to keep on watching the growth of the latest and greatest "next Jordan," Grant Hill.

Soaking up savvy from teammate Joe Dumars and spurred into nastier spirit by coach Doug Collins, Hill recently surprised a Madison Square Garden crowd by returning a fan's obscenity in kind after pounding a series of one-on-one drives down the New York Knicks' throats.

No more goody two-shoes, no more Mr. nice guy, the tough New York fans murmured appreciatively.

The Knicks, who wound up winning that battle, likewise made no trades, encouraged by the progress of the three new starters placed around Patrick Ewing this season: Allan Houston, Larry Johnson and Chris Childs.

In the Western Conference, after injuries to centre Shaquille O'Neal and recently acquired forward Robert Horry, the Los Angeles Lakers picked up swingman George

McCloud from the revamped New Jersey Nets to help hold the fort.

Elden Campbell and rookie Travis Knight, drafted and quickly cast off by the bulls, were already doing a passable job making up for O'Neal's absence.

The sputtering Seattle Supersonics, last year's runner-ups led by Shawn Kemp and Gary Payton, tampered with their chemistry coming into this season but stayed out of the laboratory come trading time, and despite their unhappiness remained right behind the Lakers in the standings.

The Houston Rockets have been busy at the medicine cabinet trying to keep veteran superstar Hakeem Olajuwon, Charles Barkley and Clyde Drexler healthy, but sought no mid-season injections of fresh talent. Neither did another vintage team, the Utah Jazz of John Stockton and Karl Malone.

The two above-mentioned changes — Mashburn and McCloud — were prelude and postscript to the blockbuster deal in which Nelson finished cleaning out what he called the "mess" in Dallas by exchanging nine players with the Nets. Not one of last year's Mavericks remains with Dallas.

Both new-look teams were in action Thursday night and both lost, but more respectably than they had grown used to.

In a five-point loss to Miami, the Nets' new point guard Sam Cassell equalled the team high with 17 points, new centre Eric Montross had 12 points and 11 rebounds (but looked immobile on defence) and All-Star forward Chris Gatling had 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Only guard Jimmy Jackson, expected to have the biggest future of them all, was off, shooting 2-for-9 for five points. Backup centre Joe Kleine was still on his way from the Lakers.

"I think we got a lot better overnight," said the Nets' Kendall Gill. Coach John Calipari, brought in with sweeping powers this

season to "The swamp" in New Jersey, was giddy.

Now he had players who could score without him calling a set play on every possession, he exulted — and he also could look forward to up to \$14 million (likely much less) in salary cap room in two years, along with a couple of draft picks.

"I went for a run today and I ran faster than I have in a year and a half," the rookie NBA coach said. "Calipari rolled the dice with the deal, but Nelson's gamble looked to be much the greater."

Already scarred by sour relations with players in New York and Golden State, Nelson was leaning on the ultra-slim reed of Shawn Bradley, at 7 feet, 6 inches (2.29 metres) the second tallest man in NBA history but more devoted to his family and religion than to the sport genetics thrust upon him.

The Mavericks also picked up unhappy guards Robert pack and Khalid Reeves and little-used forward Ed O'Bannon.

Bradley had 10 points, 10 rebounds and six blocks despite feeling like "a lost sheep" in his Dallas debut, a two-point loss to the Milwaukee Bucks. Pack sat out the game with an ankle sprain and Reeves scored eight points before leaving with an injury.

Sweet-shooting Sasha Danilovic, acquired from Miami in the Mashburn deal, was not with the Mavericks for the game.

Point guard Mark Jackson, the NBA assists leader, headlined a six-player trade Thursday when he was sent back to Indiana with centre Lasalle Thompson and rookie forward Darvin Ham for swingman Vincent Askew, guard Jerome Allen and forward Eddie Johnson, plus second-round draft picks in 1997 and 1998.

Guard Ricky Pierce was part of another Denver trade, gave the Charlotte Hornets added depth when he was dealt for guard Anthony Goldwire and centre George Zidek.

TODAY AT

CINEMA TEL:634144

PHILADELPHIA "1"

Dolph Lundgren, Gina Bellman & Conrad Dunn.... in

SILENT TRIGGER

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:634144

PHILADELPHIA "2"

Brad Pitt, Julia Ormond, Anthony Hopkins & Aidan Quinn... in

LEGENDS OF THE FALL

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:699238

PLAZA

Adel Imam, Shireen & Saeed Saleh Bakhit Wa Adillah (2)

Al Jardal Walkankah

Shows: 12:00, 2:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420

CONCORD

CONCORD "1" CURT RUSSEL & STEVEN SEGAL... in EXECUTIVE DECISION

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CONCORD "2" Michael Jordan ... in SPACEJAM

Shows: 3:30, 6:00

Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155

THE THEATRE WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL MARCH 1 FOR MAINTENANCE & REDECORATION WE WILL BE BACK WITH

Aman.. Ya Ho



John Starks of the New York Knicks jumps in the air during a game.

s Knicks to double win over Lakers

NEW YORK (AP) — John Starks scored 18 points and New York Knicks' John Starks shot in the second period of their game.

The Knicks won 101-90 over the Los Angeles Lakers in their first game since the death of Kobe Bryant. Starks' performance was a key factor in the victory.

The Knicks' defense was solid throughout the game, limiting the Lakers' scoring opportunities. The team's offensive was also effective, with several players contributing to the win.

Under-22 Basketball Championship Final round begins tonight with Ahli-Jazireh match

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The season's first basketball competition moves into high gear Tuesday when the holders of the Under-22 Championship, Ahli, face Al Jazireh in the final round of the tournament.

Al Jazireh currently lead the three-team finals on point difference after a 65-59 win over Al Ahli in their last match ending the latter's unbeaten streak throughout the tournament.

Al Jazireh and Al Ahli are now tied in overall points and provided they both beat Al Ahli in their upcoming matches the winner of their March 1 match will decide the champion.

"We played below our average in the last match (against Al Orthodoxy). We know what we did wrong

and are confident we can play a lot better," Al Jazireh's head coach Fadi Sabbah Monday told the Jordan Times.

Judging by their results in the previous rounds, Al Jazireh seem better positioned to win the game tonight.

Al Ahli have not been able to beat the top two teams while on the other hand Al Jazireh had until their match against Al Orthodoxy been the only unbeaten team defeating Al Ahli 86-76 in the first leg of the finals last week and 62-56 in the preliminary round.

Al Orthodoxy also beat Al Ahli 92-61 in the first leg and 81-48 in the preliminary round.

The three teams include the best of the Kingdom's junior players who have played alongside their clubs' senior teams as well

as the U-18 national team. Al Orthodoxy includes Fadi Saqqa, Ashraf Samara, Ihab Msih, Ghazi Naber, Ayman Dueis.

Al Jazireh, who won the championship for the past two years, includes Bashar Huneidi, Raed Ghosheh, Mu'tasem Salameh, Seif Lada', Shabin Shahin, Ma'an Odeh and Ihab Qadoomi.

The team had played two matches in Syria beating top teams Al Wihdeh and Al Jish in preparation for the final round.

Al Ahli includes Wisam Nino, Faisal Nsour, Taimour Shmali, Nihad Madi.

The two other teams in the tournament were Abu Nussair and Al Jalil who were eliminated in the preliminary round and finished fourth and fifth respectively.

Faisali win friendly match ahead of Arab Champions Cup

By Mufeed Hassouneh
in Casablanca and Aileen Bannayan in Amman

AL FAISALI Tuesday beat the Bank of Morocco 1-0 concluding their training camp in preparation for the 3rd Arab Champions Cup which kicks off in Casablanca, Morocco, Feb. 27 with Al Faisali representing Jordan alongside top three Arab teams.

Hassouneh Sheikh scored the sole goal in the 53rd minute and head coach Mazhar Saeed gave a chance for all players in order to decide the starting lineup for the opening match in which they will face Egypt's Al Ahli.

Arah League Champions Egypt's Al Ahli arrived in Casablanca Monday to join runners-up Morocco's Al Raja, Arab Cup Winners Cup champions Olympic Khreikh of Morocco and runners-up Al Faisali at the

championship's headquarters where teams are putting the finishing touches on their preparations.

Al Faisali had qualified after finishing in second place after Khreikh in the Arab Cup Winners Cup which was held in Amman last summer.

They will be the first Jordanian team to participate in the elite event which groups the Arab World's top teams.

Meanwhile, Arab Soccer Federation (ASF) officials said HRH Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, president of the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF), would be holding a series of meetings with ASF president Prince Faisal Ben Fahd. Discussions are expected to centre on Jordanian soccer and how the Kingdom can utilise ASF seminars and programmes to develop the game in the country. Talks would also centre

on the Saudi experience and their advanced standing in Arab, Asian and international sports arenas.

Prince Abdullah, who is expected to arrive in Casablanca Friday or Saturday will also be holding talks with the Egyptian and Moroccan soccer chiefs and other dignitaries invited to the championship.

The ASF has invited FIFA President Joao Havelange, Asian Football chief Sultan Ahmad Shah, African Football chief Issa Hayatou, and Egyptian Football Chairman Samir Zahr.

The head of Al Faisali's delegation, Majed Khreisha, said Prince Abdullah's attendance would give a big morale boost to the players citing that Al Faisali's Club board had done everything possible to ensure the team would appear in their best

form. Al Faisali had hosted Romania's Jiul Petrosani in Amman and flew to Casablanca last Wednesday for a week-long training camp.

The ASF praised Jordan's participation noting that they considered Al Faisali to be the team to watch.

The Arab Champions Cup aims at naming the best Arab team as the event groups the top two teams of the Cup Winners Cup and League Champions.

Significant cash prizes await the participating teams with the winner receiving \$50,000, the runner-up \$25,000, the third place finisher \$15,000 and the fourth team \$10,000.

In addition, the Prince Faisal trophy and prize will be awarded to the ideal team. Each team will start the championship with 20 points. Two points will be deducted for each yellow card booking and 6 points

for each suspension. There will also be prizes for top scorer, top goalie and best player. Hosts, Al Raja' will receive \$50,000 for hosting the event.

Al Faisali's 29-member delegation includes players: Anis Shafiq, Walid Abu Hneid, Freidon Saeed, Muhammad Mahadin, Ahmad Khalil, Firas Khataleh, Ali Zu'bi, Ihab Nasr, Rami Abu Fanar, Osama Talal, Ratch Awadat, Ziyad Abu Shamah, Jantab Abu Abed, Subhi Suleiman, Hassouneh Sheikh, Haem Aqel, Hailham Shboul, Jiryes Tadros, Mahmoud Matar, Ja'far Hammad, Man-our Tawiah, Raed Jbour.

Jordan Television will be covering the championship matches live.

Mixed fortunes for Europe's table toppers

MILAN (AFP) — Leaders of Europe's major leagues this weekend had mixed fortunes as Monaco's lead was cut, Juventus and Real Madrid held their advantage, while Bayern Munich increased their margin at the top.

Juventus drew 1-1 at Fiorentina. Real Madrid thrashed Real Oviedo 6-1. Munich drew 1-1 at Bochum yet went further ahead in the Bundesliga while Monaco crashed 2-0 in Metz.

But Juventus had the most dramatic day — off the pitch at least.

Their bus was stoned and their fans needed police protection as football hooliganism overshadowed the Italian league leaders' 1-1 draw at Fiorentina.

Juventus' team bus was hit by a volley of stones from Fiorentina fans as they made their way to the stadium, shattering four windows and spraying broken glass over some of the players.

No one was injured in the incident but police had to use batons before and tear gas after the match in Florence to maintain order and to protect the visiting Juventus fans as they left the ground.

About 10 police officers and a dozen fans suffered light injuries in various scuffles which broke out in and around the ground.

Juventus team coach Marcello Lippi said the club would not be filing a complaint about the stoning of the bus.

"The important thing is for people to realise what happened and make sure it doesn't happen again," he said.

With Sampdoria snatching a late point in Naples, Juventus stay five points clear at the top of the Serie A with 41 points.

French midfielder Alain Bighossian gave Napoli a 58th minute lead, slamming the ball home with a waist-high shot.

But Sampdoria, who had hit the woodwork three times in the first half, earned their point with a



Ajax Amsterdam striker Patrick Kluijver (L) slips away from the clutches of Feyenoord midfielder Jean-Paul van Gastel during the first half of their first division league match at the Arena in Amsterdam. Ajax beat Feyenoord 3-0 (Reuters photo)

stunning 25-yard free-kick from Croatian midfielder Sinisa Mihajlovic, whose drive boomed into the right-hand roof of the net with just three minutes left.

Har-trick heroes Davor Suker and Ronaldo led Real Madrid and Barcelona to crushing victories in the Spanish championship.

Leaders Real Madrid beat Real Oviedo 6-1 at home to remain six points ahead of their Catalan rivals, who won 4-1 against Real Zaragoza at the Nou Camp Stadium.

Both sides bounced back after poor midweek results — Barcelona losing 2-0 at real Sociedad and Real Madrid losing 1-0 at neighbours Rayo Vallecano for their first defeat in 25 league matches.

Abelardo also hit home for Barcelona and Madrid's other scorers were Pedrag Mijatovic, Raul and Victor, who was celebrating his 21st birthday.

Meanwhile Jurgen Klinsmann struck a 65th-minute equaliser for Bayern Munich at Bochum to stretch his side's lead at the top in Germany to three points.

Klinsmann's effort came 10 minutes after defender Torsten Kracht had given Bochum the lead and took the Bavarian giants' points haul to 40, three clear of Borussia Dortmund, 2-0 losers at Fortuna Dusseldorf.

Bayern coach Giovanni Trapattoni praised his team's dogged performance, but was angry with midfielder Mehmet Scholl for squandering two good chances. "If Scholl had been less selfish then we could have won," the Italian snapped.

French League leaders Monaco saw their title hopes jolted as they crashed 2-0 in Metz, but rivals Paris Saint Germain failed to take advantage as they were held 1-1 at home by Guingamp.

Metz, going for a place in the UEFA Cup for the second season in a row, completely outwitted their illustrious opponents with Cyril Serresduz heading the northerners in front on 15 minutes following a pinpoint cross from Didier Lang.

Robert Pires, whom Metz say will not go to

Newcastle United for less than \$8 million pounds, could have made it two on the half hour but his shot was hurried and flashed wide.

With Rigobert Song successfully muzzling Brazilian hitman Sonny Anderson, Monaco were a shadow of their usual selves in attack, although Scottish midfielder John Collins went close with one long-range drive.

Another Lang freekick set up Rodriguez for Metz's second in the last minute for a well-deserved win.

PSG stand six points off the pace after squandering two points at home to Guingamp, who took a 27th minute lead with a Stephane Carnot goal direct from a corner which caught keeper Bernard Lama napping at his near post.

Brazilian midfielder Raul scored from the spot to save a point for the hosts on 69 minutes after a Hughes foul on Panamanian striker Dely Valdes.

Ex-Monaco man Christophe Wreh could have given the visitors the win late on but hit the post with Lama beaten.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Bolden equals fastest time of year

BIRMINGHAM (R) — Trinidad's Olympic 100 metres bronze medalist Ato Boldon equalled the fastest 60 metres time of the year on Sunday when he clocked 6.49 seconds at the Birmingham Indoor Grand Prix. Jamaican Michael Green is the only other man to have run as fast this season. Nigerian Davidson Ezinwa was second in 6.53 and Jamaican Ray Stewart third in 6.55. Canadian Bruny Surin, who attempts his third consecutive 60 metres indoor title in Paris next week, was eliminated in the heats. Dennis Mitchell and Jon Drummond, both members of the U.S. 4x100 metres relay team who finished second to Canada at the Atlanta Olympics last year, also failed to qualify for the final.

Majoli wins final

HANOVER (R) — Iva Majoli of Croatia fought back from a set down to beat top seed Jana Novotna 4-6, 7-6, 6-4 and retain her title at the WTA tournament in Hanover on Sunday. The 19-year old completed the fightback set with an impressive third set to record her first WTA tournament win since last year's triumph.

Jones sinks Arsenal title hopes

LONDON (AFP) — Arsenal's title hopes suffered a major setback as Wimbledon consolidated their bid for a UEFA Cup place with a 1-0 win at Highbury Sunday.

Defeat left Arsenal in fourth place, six points behind leaders Manchester United but having played one game more as their sequence without a win was stretched to five games.

Wimbledon had hardman Vinnie Jones to thank as their remarkable season continued after the shaven-headed midfielder scored the only goal of the game with a superbly taken volley in the first-half.

Joe Kinnear's side, who are also in the league cup semi-finals and the FA Cup quarter-finals, kept alive their outside hopes of an unlikely title challenge with a 12th league win of the season.

Troubled Arsenal striker Ian Wright came within inches of giving Arsene Wenger's side the lead after 15 minutes when he raced onto a long clearance from the back.

With two defenders hearing down on him from the side and Wimbledon 'keeper Neil Sullivan hurrying off his line, Wright shot instinctively from the edge of the area only to see his effort cannon off the right-hand post.

But it was the visitors, who have not lost at Highbury since 1987, who took the lead with a goal against the run of play on 21

minutes.

A poor clearance by Arsenal full-back Lee Dixon allowed Neal Ardley to return the ball into the box where captain Jones, completely unmarked, hurried a half-volley from 10 yards.

The gunners, without injured England international David Scaman, Tony Adams, Martin Keown and David Platt, looked as if they were still reeling from Wednesday's bruising 2-1 home defeat by Manchester United.

Wimbledon should have stretched their lead on the stroke of half-time when Ardley snatched at a shot from close range after a fine knock-down by Robbie Earle at the far post and saw his effort squirt wide of the mark.

Moments earlier, Arsenal goalkeeper John Lukic kept out a fierce shot by Earle as Wimbledon looked on course to extend an incredible record at Highbury where they are unbeaten in the last eight visits.

But after Jones's goal, the gunners had only the occasional moment of brilliance from Dennis Bergkamp to inspire them. Twice the Dutchman was tackled as he prepared to shoot.

Bergkamp continued to look Arsenal's most likely source of an equaliser in the second half.

Merson made a surging run down the left flank before releasing Bergkamp

who advanced into the area but when he cut the ball back from the goal-line there was no Arsenal player there to turn the ball into the net.

Bergkamp almost scored himself after 70 minutes when he brought a smart save out of Sullivan with a low shot from the edge of the area.

But for all their second-half pressure, the gunners were unable to find the target, and almost went two down when the dons hit them on the break after 60 minutes.

Efan Ekoku crossed low for Ardley to hit a fierce shot which Lukic brilliantly kept out and from the rebound Marcus Gayle seemed certain to score, until Steve Morrow made a superb interception.

Frenchman Patrick Vieira looked certain to level the scores when he met Bergkamp's in-swinging cross from the right but his close range effort was somehow beaten out by Sullivan.

Goalscorer Jones, substituted after the break with a leg injury, said Wimbledon must not crumble under the pressure as they aim to secure their first ever place in European competition.

"The victory is obviously going to bring even more pressure," said Jones. "But the main thing is that we continue to enjoy our football and continue to express ourselves."

Davenport wins Oklahoma City final

OKLAHOMA CITY (R) — Olympic champion Lindsay Davenport won for the first time since last August by beating Lisa Raymond 6-4 6-2 Sunday in the finals of the \$164,250 IGA tennis classic.

The top-seeded, 20-year-old Californian received \$27,000 for claiming her eighth career victory.

Davenport led the first set 5-4, but trailed 30-40 in the 10th game. She got the game to deuce and closed out the set with an ace.

She immediately broke

Raymond's serve to open the second set as the fourth-seeded player had two double faults.

Davenport stormed out to a 4-0 lead and was never headed.

"Winning that 5-4 game was huge," Davenport said. "If it gets to 5-5, it would have been such a difference."

"It is always important to get off to a good start any time and that was the case the second set."

Davenport, ranked eighth, has been struggling in recent months.

She won three tournaments in 1996, but nothing since winning the Olympics in Atlanta and a \$450,000 tournament in Los Angeles.

"Things were really rolling for me, winning the Olympics and Los Angeles," Davenport said. "I think I got burned out. I was playing a lot of tennis."

"That's the reason I came here. I didn't play that well in Australia and wanted to get my confidence up. I think my game is just now back where it

was."

Raymond, ranked 26th, battled back from a bout with the flu during the week to reach the finals of a tournament for only the fifth time in her career.

"I definitely needed to serve better," said Raymond, who received \$13,500. "I needed to get a lot more first serves in. There's no way I could have played her the way I did in the semifinals (a 6-1 6-0 win over Francesca Lubiana of Italy)."

"I couldn't bang away with her."

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NORTH
A 8 2
K Q 2
Q 8 2
K 7 8 2
WEST
A Q 8 7 5
Q 10 5 6
Q J 8 5
A 6
EAST
A J 6 4
Q 9 7 5
Q 10 8 4
A 10 7 3
SOUTH
A K 10 5
Q A K J 4
Q A K 2
K 9 4
The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
2NT Pass 3NT Pass
Pass
Opening lead: Queen of 0
Looking at the club suit only, the correct way to play it is to lead low from the South hand toward the two honors in dummy, then back to the king. Considering the hand as a whole, that would be fatal here — unless declarer was blessed with X-ray vision.
South's opening bid of two no trump is textbook. With a balanced seven-point suit and a five-card club suit, North has no reason to contemplate any contract other than three no trump.
Correct is to lead the king of clubs at trick two, which East must duck. Now continue with the nine of clubs. If West follows, put up an honor from the table. Should East show out, return to hand with the king of hearts and lead a club, taking the marked finesse for the ten. Should West show out, run the nine. East must win, and you can capture any return in hand and lead another club, setting up two more tricks in the suit while the ace of spades is still in dummy as an entry.
Tough luck.

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Police seek motive for bizarre shooting at New York landmark

Palestinian opens fire on tourists, self atop Empire State Building

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Police on Monday were searching for a Palestinian man's motive for shooting a group of tourists atop the Empire State Building, leaving one dead and six wounded before killing himself.

New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani called the Sunday incident "a terrible tragedy" but said it was too early to say whether the shooting was a random act or terrorism.

The Palestinian, identified as Ali Abu Kamal, triggered panic and a stampede from the building's crowded 86th floor observation deck as he began firing his 380 semi-automatic Beretta.

Shortly before the bloody attack, Belgian businessman Stef Nys said he heard a dark-skinned man ask tourists if they were from Egypt.

"He was going up to people and asking, 'are you from Egypt? Are you from Alexandria?'" said Mr. Nys.

Mr. Nys said he turned around and saw the gunman shoot himself in the head. "His false teeth popped out and his body was convulsing," Mr. Nys said.

Mr. Giuliani and police said they could not confirm the assailant made the remarks about Egypt.

The 69-year-old lone assailant, whose papers said he was from Ramallah, died in hospital six hours after shooting himself in the head, police said.

He shot dead a 27-year-old musician from Denmark who was among about 300 tourists atop the Manhattan landmark admiring the view around 5:00 p.m. (2200 GMT) just before sunset.

The Empire State Building was once the tallest building in the world and has been the backdrop for several Hollywood movies, from "King Kong" to "Sleepless in Seattle."

The attack wounded a 52-year-old Argentine, a French couple, a 30-year-old Swiss and two U.S. nationals, including a friend of the Dane. Six other tourists, including a 15-



Ali Abu Kamal (photo quality as received)

month old baby and a one-and-a-half year old child, were hurt in the crush as the panicked sightseers rushed for the exits.

"Suddenly we heard the shots and everyone starts screaming 'go down! go down!'" said Kay Dar, who was on a family outing with her husband and two children, ages 12 and 13.

Mr. Giuliani said there was "no indication yet that (the assailant) knew anybody" on the observation deck.

He said that "terrorism" was "a significant hypothesis" but that nothing was being ruled out at this stage.

City police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in a joint terrorism task force are working on the investigation, he said.

The man's name did not turn up in a computer search of known criminals, according to law enforcement sources.

Mr. Safir said there was no advance warning of the attack and no claim of responsibility.

Mr. Giuliani said that Abu Kamal, who was born in Jaffa in 1927, arrived in the United States on Dec. 24 according to documents found on him. He purchased the Beretta in Florida at the end of last month.

The mayor said that as a precaution, security had been stepped up at other "sensitive locations," but stressed that "there is no reason for anyone in the city to be frightened."

Armed undercover security

guards and uniformed guards patrol the building, which is staffed with security officers 24 hours a day, Empire State Building spokesman Steven Rubinstein said.

The Empire State Building, one of New York's most popular tourist attractions, was the tallest building in the world when it first opened in 1931.

It lost that distinction in 1972 but remains the world's seventh-tallest building and attracts droves of tourists because of its breathtaking view of the city, the rivers around New York and neighbouring states.

Police were not sure of the significance of Abu Kamal's remarks about Egypt.

"There are different reports about things that were said," but no indication of his motivation, Mr. Giuliani told a city hall news conference.

The graceful tower in midtown Manhattan remains one of the best-known symbols of New York and is especially popular with the thousands of foreign tourists visiting the city each year.

Standing 375 meters — 442 metres with its spire — the building is noted for the lighting that bathes its granite sides in various colours to commemorate the seasons, holidays or special events. On Sunday, the lighting was all-white.

Visitors buy a ticket in the lobby and ride elevators to the 86th floor deck. They are not routinely subjected to metal detectors or searches of personal belongings.

Skies were clear, visibility from the deck was about 16 kilometres and temperatures were in the 40s Fahrenheit (around 6C) on a Sunday afternoon that would normally attract hundreds of tourists.

Leona Helmsley, whose real estate company manages the Empire State Building, said the firm would pay for families of victims to be flown to New York.

"We will do everything possible to lighten their burden during this terrible time," Ms. Helmsley said through Mr. Rubenstein.

Kabariti meets Qouriea, reaffirms Jordan's rejection of Israeli plans in Arab Jerusalem

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Monday received at his office Ahmad Qouriea, head of the Palestinian Legislative Council, and reaffirmed Jordan's firm stand with regard to the peace process and Arab East Jerusalem.

He said that Jordan considers the Holy City a symbol of peace and rejects any measures that pose a threat to the Middle East peace process.

The prime minister and the Palestinian official reviewed issues of common concern and developments in the peace process as well as Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation in various fields.

Following the meeting

Mr. Qouriea told Jordan Television that he reviewed the situation in Palestinian territories in the light of



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Monday meets Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Ahmad Qouriea (Petra photo)

ongoing Israeli attempts to create a new Jewish settlement near Jerusalem.

Mr. Qouriea, who was accompanied to the meeting with a Palestinian

Ambassador to Jordan Omar Khatib, said he reviewed with Mr. Kabariti further Israeli redeployment in Palestinian lands and heard from Mr. Kabariti the results of a meeting in Amman Sunday between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

In reply to a question about the new settlement which Israel intends to build on Jabal Abu Ghneim near Jerusalem, Mr. Qouriea said such a move was bound to grind the peace process to a halt, adding that he also expects a very angry reaction from the Palestinian people.

He said the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee would meet in the first week of March to discuss issues of common concern.

Jordan takes delivery of C-130 plane of U.S. aid package today

Kingdom advancing a model in Middle East and needs support, information minister says

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan today takes formal delivery of a Hercules C-130 H transport plane as part of military assistance from the U.S. agreed last year during a ceremony to be held at Marka Airport, officials said Monday.

The Kingdom has already received a shipment of other items included in the assistance package worth \$100 million. These involved 18 UH helicopters, 50 M-60 tanks, 250 transport vehicles, three small boats, night vision and other military equipment and light weapons.

The Clinton administration has granted Jordan the status of a non-North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) ally, which entitles the Kingdom to receive advance U.S. military equipment and technology.

The \$100 million aid package was agreed upon before the status was granted to the Kingdom.

Jordan will receive 16 F-16 fighter jets from the U.S. before the end of this year.

His Majesty King Hussein is expected to discuss Jordan's financial and military needs when he visits the U.S. for talks with President Bill Clinton on March 18.

On the political level, the White House talks are expected to focus on the status of the Middle East peace process and means to ensure the success of Arab-Israeli negotiations.

On the bilateral front, the King is expected to discuss the U.S.-Jordanian economic cooperation as well as joint efforts in various other areas.

U.S. grants Jordan \$21m to finance purchase of wheat

AN AGREEMENT for \$21 million in soft loans to help Jordan purchase about 100,000 metric tonnes of wheat from private U.S. sources was signed Monday at the finance ministry by Finance Minister Marwan Awad and United States Ambassador to Jordan Wesley W. Egan. Minister of Supply Munir Sobar witnessed the signing. Last year the United States provided an equal amount of financing under the (Public Law) PL-480 programme, making Jordan the largest recipient of PL-480 assistance in the world for the second year in a row.

The soft loan is being provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the provisions of PL-480. It is being extended at the concessional interest rate of 3 per cent for the five years and at 4 per cent thereafter. Repayment will begin following a grace period of five years in 21 annual instalments, the United States Information Service said in a press release.

including the fight against extremism and crime.

Explaining the Kingdom's approach and perceptions, Information Minister Marwan Muasher said Monday Amman felt that it deserved "the support of the international community, including the U.S. and other countries," because it was advancing a unique model in the Middle East.

"We are following a three-pronged approach" in creating that model, Dr. Muasher told a press briefing.

The three "prongs," he explained, included the political reform programme that Jordan adopted in 1980, the economic restructuring programme under way in the Kingdom and the Middle East peace process.

On the first count, the minister pointed out that the political reforms adopted by Jordan did not mean simply the free parliamentary elections that the Kingdom saw in 1989 and 1993 but includ-

other countries" in advancing the model, said Dr. Muasher.

The positive impact of the success of the model will benefit the entire Middle East region just as "the negative repercussions of failure will not be limited to Jordan," added the minister.

The central role that Jordan plays in the region and the quest for Arab-Israeli peace was highlighted by the successful mediation that the King undertook in lifting a logjam in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations last month.

King Hussein, addressing a press conference after talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday, reiterated Jordan's willingness to offer whatever it can, if asked to do so, in advancing the peace process.

Stressing Jordan's "total commitment to peace, a peace with dignity and security, a better future for all the generations to come," the King said: "We will not waver in our efforts to get there, so that long after we are gone, people will remember us... we have done our very best for them and for the coming together of the children of Abraham..."

"I am always ready to help in any way we can wherever the question of peace is raised..." said the King.

Mr. Netanyahu described as crucial and positive the King's intervention in February that led to the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement on Hebron and subsequent steps in implementing the Oslo accords.

Lebanon to deport Iraqi

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese authorities decided on Monday to deport an Iraqi citizen after questioning him about the killings of several Iraqi opposition figures outside Lebanon, judicial sources said.

They said assistant military Prosecutor-General Khaled Hammoud called off investigations of Bassam Yaqoub Yousef, who had been questioned about allegedly carrying out assassinations in Kuwait, London, Morocco and Albania for Iraqi intelligence.

"It has been decided to close the case and deport Bassam Yaqoub Yousef from Lebanon after investigations proved he had not committed any crime in Lebanon and that he had legally entered the country," sources quoted Mr. Hammoud as saying.

Israel lodges protest against French foreign minister's truncated visit

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel lodged an angry protest with France on Monday over a decision to cut short a planned visit here next month by French Foreign Minister Herve De Charette.

"Israel has officially expressed its displeasure to France," said foreign ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor.

"The Israeli government is not happy with the organisation of the visit as it has been presented. This stay of 24 hours does not correspond with the three-day visit we were promised," he told AFP.

Mr. De Charette is due here on March 4. The trip was aimed at improving ties strained after President Jacques Chirac's October visit was marred when Israeli police prevented him from mingling with Palestinians in Arab East Jerusalem, an action Mr. Chirac described as "provocation."

Mr. Palmor said the French ambassador had been summoned to the foreign ministry several days ago to be told of Israel's displeasure. "Our ambassador in France has been charged with passing on the same message to the Quai D'Orsay (French foreign ministry)," he added.

Israeli Radio said Mr. De Charette's programme now includes Israel simply as a leg on a Middle Eastern tour taking in the Palestinian territories as well as Syria and Lebanon.

However, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy had reportedly received an assurance that Mr. De Charette would make a three-day visit to try and repair the damage done to relations during Mr. Chirac's trip.

Mr. De Charette accompanied Mr. Chirac on his Middle East tour last year but did not come to Israel after the government warned him against visiting Orient House, the unofficial headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in Arab East Jerusalem.

Israel is firmly opposed to any diplomatic visits to Orient House, saying such visits lend credence to Palestinian claims over Arab East Jerusalem.

On Friday, France said it was "worried" by Israeli plans to build a new Jewish neighbourhood on its southern edge.

France recently offered to play a role in any moves to resume peace talks between Israel and Syria and Lebanon.

Israel sees ties with Yemen

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel and Yemen are discussing establishing official ties through the opening of interest offices, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said on Monday.

Mr. Levy, speaking to Israel Radio during a visit to China, confirmed a report in the Yedioth Ahronot newspaper that Eitan Benzur, director-general of the Israeli foreign ministry, secretly met Yemen's foreign minister in Europe at the weekend.

"Even before this we sent a special emissary who brought a message from me," Mr. Levy said. "We are maintaining channels of communications and now we are heading... towards the main thing — another country with which we can open an interest office."

Mr. Levy said he could give no further details until Israel and Yemen issued a joint announcement.

"There are contacts and a willingness by both sides. We exchanged ideas, written and also in meetings. I hope that within a few days both of us will be able to give additional and gratifying clarifications," he said.

Yedioth Ahronot reported that Yemen had agreed as a first stage to allow up to 10,000 Israelis of Yemeni extraction to visit and Israeli companies to invest in the country.

Israel already has a foothold in the Arabian Peninsula, with trade missions in Oman and Qatar. Oman has a trade representation office in Tel Aviv.

No Red Army members arrested, Murr declares

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon has not arrested any members of the Japanese Red Army, Interior Minister Michel Murr said Monday, contradicting a Japanese government announcement that members of the group were in Lebanese custody.

"The directorate of state security informed me in an official letter that the authorities are not detaining members of the Japanese Red Army," Mr. Murr said in a television interview.

"Some Palestinians during interrogation about certain cases reported that they had cooperated with foreigners who have been arrested, but there are no Japanese among them," he added.

On Friday, Mr. Murr told reporters that the Interior Ministry's security services "have not arrested anybody."

The directorate of state security, which is directly linked to the prime minister's office, the general security agency and the army intelligence services are part of the central security council headed by Mr. Murr.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez confirmed last week that several Japanese nationals had been taken into custody. But he declined to identify them as members of the Japanese Red Army or release further information.

Asked Monday about Mr. Murr's comments, Masanori Yagi, first secretary at the

Japanese embassy, said: "For U.S., the situation has not changed, because we had not received any confirmation of the identities of those arrested in the first place."

Attorney General Adnan Adnani met here Monday with a diplomat from the Japanese embassy and an anti-terrorism officer dispatched from Tokyo but declined to comment to reporters on his talks.

Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto announced last week that Tokyo had been informed of the arrests of five or six suspected Japanese Red Army members in Lebanon.

"We are now cooperating with the Lebanese government to try to confirm their identity," Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda said. "If it is confirmed that they are members, we would ask for them to be handed over to Japan."

Lebanese judicial sources have identified one of those in custody as Kozo Okamoto, sentenced to life imprisonment in Israel for a machine-gun and grenade attack at Lod airport in May 1972 which left 26 people dead and 80 wounded.

Mr. Okamoto, now 49, was released in a hostage exchange between Israel and Palestinian guerrillas in May 1985.

Formed in 1971, the Japanese Red Army has close links with militant Palestinian groups.

COLUMN

Russians not satisfied with sex-aid wages

MOSCOW (R) — Bosses at what was once a high-tech Soviet defence plant have solved a severe cash shortage by paying workers with handouts of the firm's new post-cold war products — which include rubber sex aids. Employees at the Akhtuba factory in Volgograd, who have had no wages for over a year, are far from satisfied with being paid in dildos and are now on the brink of revolt, the Moscow Times newspaper said at the weekend. The Akhtuba plant had previously made high-precision marine navigation instruments for the Soviet navy.

Obscenities spray-painted on Lincoln's tomb

SPRINGFIELD (R) — Vandals spray-painted obscenities on the stone base of the building housing former President Abraham Lincoln's tomb, police said Sunday. Police had no suspects in the painting, which apparently took place Saturday night. Springfield police Sergeant Ricky Davis said, Sgt. Davis would not say whether the graffiti had racial overtones. Lincoln, the 16th U.S. president, issued the emancipation proclamation, freeing the slaves, in 1863.

Two girls die in fire believed started by hair dryer

OKLAHOMA CITY (R) — Two young sisters were killed when they accidentally started a fire by playing with dolls and a hairdryer at their Oklahoma City home, officials said. Courtney Shope, 5, and her sister Tessa, 2, were playing in their bedroom Saturday when the fire broke out. Fire chief Mike Vernon said the exact cause of the blaze was not yet known but that the girls may have set the dolls' hair on fire by using the dryer on them or that it may have been dropped among some clothing on the floor and overheated. The girls' mother escaped the fire with her infant daughter but was unable to rescue the other two girls, officials said.

Smelly books bring history alive

LONDON (R) — History books complete with the smells of muck heaps, rotting heads on poles and plague-ridden streets are set to bring the past alive for Britain's schoolchildren. The scratch-and-sniff "Smelly old history" series promises to waft children back to a past when Romans washed their laundry in urine and 16th century lovers exchanged apples they had kept in their armpits, said publishers Oxford University Press. "Of all the senses of the past, we often forget the importance of smell. It's the best, it's the worst, but it's the hardest sense to include in a history lesson," said author Mary Dobson. The first three books in the series are to be published in mid-March.

Indian speaker raps sleeping MPs

NEW DELHI (AFP) — The speaker of India's upper house Monday pulled up several erring deputies, saying they could close their eyes to reflect but not sleep. G. Swaminathan, a senior member of parliament functioning as temporary speaker in the Rajya Sabha, said dozing was not allowed. "One can certainly close his eyes and think," he said. His observations came during a tumultuous post-lunch session when several members were found sleeping despite an animated discussion on a government proposal to provide cheap foodgrains to 320 million poor people.